

# Lawson likely to stand firm on BP issue

## Chancellor 'surprised' by underwriters' plea

● The Chancellor of the Exchequer made it clear that he expects the BP flotation to go ahead despite requests from underwriters for a postponement.

● Mr Lawson said that the Government is maintaining pressure on the United States to take action to restore confidence in the international markets.

● Share prices rose in London, Wall Street and on European and Asian stockmarkets after concerted buying in Tokyo set a better tone.

● The dollar dropped to its lowest level against the mark for seven years and the pound rose above \$1.70 in New York.

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave a clear signal yesterday that the Government intends to press ahead with the £7.2 billion British Petroleum issue.

He told the Commons that he hoped to make a decision by tomorrow on the plea by the financial institutions underwriting the deal to withdraw it.

But he said that he had been surprised by the approach by the underwriters on Monday to the Treasury to terminate the offer for sale.

His carefully chosen response, in a statement demanded by the Opposition, was taken by Conservative and Labour MPs as the broadest possible endorsement of the Government's position.

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est of hints that he intends to hold the underwriters to their obligations.

If so, he will have the strong backing of Conservative MPs, one of whom, Mr Terence Higgins, chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service select committee, in the last Parliament, won cheers when he told the Chancellor that it would be dangerous to leave underwriters in a position where they could say "heads we win, tails you lose".

The Chancellor was clearly stonewalling and, by not committing himself either way, has still left himself room to withdraw the issue. But that appeared last night to be unlikely.

His statement came after a call by Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, for the sale to go ahead amid signs of a backlash growing in the City against the underwriters.

Mr Lawson made clear that he was contractually obliged to go through the consultations with the underwriters if, as they had now represented, they believed they were no longer assuming a proper underwriting risk.

Under the underwriting agreement, the Treasury considers the representations and consults BP. Rothschild's on behalf of the underwriters also seek BP's views.

Rothschild's and the Treasury then consult together. If they are unable to agree, they approach the Bank of England for its assessment. Mr Lawson takes full account of that assessment before he takes a decision, but the final decision is his.

Treasury sources said last night that the consultation process was at an early stage. Mr Lawson hoped it would be completed by tomorrow, although in theory it could go on until Friday afternoon when trading is due to begin.

In the Commons, the shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, told Mr Lawson: "You have made it crystal clear in what you have said that you intend to hold the underwriters to their obligations".

But Mr Smith, who with Mr Neil Kinnock failed later to get an emergency debate on the crisis, and his colleagues remain suspicious about the delay over announcing a decision. They believe that Mr Lawson may be working on a deal with the underwriters

that will somehow soften the blow.

But Conservative MPs believe that the underwriters, having made big profits on earlier privatizations, should be ready to withstand a loss on this one.

Senior ministers believe the Government would be badly damaged if it appeared to bow to pressure from the City to call off the sale, and that the privatization programme itself would be damaged.

Mr Lawson promised that the growth in share ownership and privatization would continue despite the financial setbacks.

But he appeared to offer little hope for small investors who have already applied and stand to lose about 70p a share. He said: "Like the Treasury, applicants for shares are bound by the terms of the offer".

Mr Lawson was attacked by Mr Smith, who said he should be ashamed at having to be dragged reluctantly to the Commons when he should have volunteered a statement days ago.

Mr Lawson disclosed that the Government was continuing to maintain the pressure on the United States to increase taxation and reduce domestic spending. He spoke to Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, yesterday.

He also said that action was needed in West Germany, where monetary policy was too tight.

The Chancellor seemed far from unhappy with interventions from the senior Tory backbencher, Sir Peter Horn, and Mr Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the Commons public accounts committee.

Sir Peter said if the issue was withdrawn it would be widely felt that the underwriters could not meet their commitments. If that was the case the damage caused would be much greater than if the issue proceeded.

Mr Sheldon condemned the impudence of the underwriters. What was the purpose of having underwriters if their risks were to be removed and copper-bottomed guarantees given instead?

Earlier the Prime Minister came under pressure over the question. But she repeatedly stonewalled by referring to the consultation procedure between Mr Lawson and the underwriters.

Last week Glasgow's procurator fiscal, the official responsible for inaugurating prosecution under Scottish law, asked police to carry out an inquiry into incidents on and off the field during the game at which 62 people were arrested, mostly for minor offences.

A police spokesman last night confirmed that the removal of the film was intended to assist the investigation.

Scottish Television was first asked on Monday for a copy of the original recording of the match, and not the highlights broadcast afterwards. The company declined the request and suggested that a formal procedure would be preferable.

An STV spokesman said last night: "Our difficulty lay partly in the fact that although the actual tape belonged to us, the contents were the copyright of the Scottish Football League whose interest in the matter is also strong."

"We were again visited by police today, this time bearing a warrant, and we complied with their request to surrender the tape but there was no question of a raid. It was a polite transaction."

# Markets show signs of recovery

By Kenneth Fleet

A measure of composure returned to world stock markets yesterday, though the atmosphere remained tense. Some concerted buying by big investors in Tokyo raised Japanese share prices and set the tone for a better performance in Hong Kong, on European markets, London and Wall Street.

After a day of fluctuations within narrow limits, the FTSE 100 share index finished 19.2 higher, at 1735.3. The FT 30 share index closed 14.9 up at 1332. Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial Average put on 41.6 points at 1835.54, helped to sustain London's modest recovery when it showed signs of flagging after a bright start.

Even small gains at this stage are apt to breed grains of hope that the worst of the crash is now past. But there is no evidence yet that major investors either in the United States or in Britain are ready to re-enter the market in force and bid up prices.

The main talking point in the City remained the £7.2 billion BP share issue, which dealers, taking their cue from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement in the Commons yesterday, now believe will go ahead.

BP shares fell another 6p to 259p, with 4 million shares changing hands. This compares with a price of 330p for

New York - Another investor has committed suicide after losing so much that he could not repay his stockbroker (Charles Bremner writes). Mr Vernon Lamberg, thought to have lost \$500,000 (£300,000) passed himself in a motel.

MIAMI: Arthur Kane, who shot dead his stockbroker and then killed himself, was believed to have lost nearly \$5 million (Alan Tomlinson writes).

The new shares, and 350p immediately before markets began their precipitous fall less than two weeks ago.

The underwriters, who are obliged to take up unsold stock and some 100,000 private shareholders and BP employees who have applied for shares face the prospect of large, instant losses.

Depending on the market's course over the coming weeks and months, there is a serious risk that large numbers of BP shares will be dumped. This would depress the price further and raise doubts over investors' willingness to pay the second instalment of 105p due next August. Applications for BP shares close today.

In the gilt-edged market prices fell quite sharply, on the theory that if the BP issue were postponed it would mean that the Government would have to raise the revenue foregone by selling more government stock. The falls were reduced after Mr Lawson's statement.

The most significant movement was in the foreign exchange market, where the US dollar dropped to its lowest level against the West German mark since 1980. Dealers decided that the absence of central bank support for the American currency showed that the monetary authorities had collectively agreed that the dollar should fall further.

It dropped a penny to DM1.7625, and from Y142.15 to Y141.45 in London. Later in New York it fell to DM1.7575 and Y141.15. The pound was up to \$1.6955.

All eyes are on President Reagan's talks with Congressional leaders. The Administration is being pressured to reduce the \$170 billion Federal Budget deficit by more than the scheduled \$23 billion.

At home there was an encouraging Quarterly Trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, and some cautiously but also optimistic words from the National Economic Development Office.

# The IRA's graduate bomb maker



Gilbert McNamee, the Provisional IRA's most sophisticated bomb-maker, pictured in his graduation robes.

# Explosions mastermind gets 25 years

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The Provisional IRA's most sophisticated bomb-maker, linked by police to 10 London bombings including the Hyde Park, Regent's Park and Harrods attacks, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Gilbert McNamee, a science graduate aged 27, was arrested in his home at Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, last August. Police intelligence operations had revealed he was about to play a key part in a Provisional IRA attack on a special target in Northern Ireland.

A fingerprint matched to a mark on a bomb cache in Britain provided the evidence for arrest.

McNamee, an expert in timed devices and booby trap bombs as well as radio-controlled bombs devices, is linked to up to 80 bombs on the British mainland and in Northern Ireland.

His devices were responsible for the deaths of at least 30 soldiers, police and civilians but some estimates put the toll at anything up to 80 deaths.

Yesterday McNamee stood expressionless as he was convicted of conspiring to cause explosions in Britain between 1982 and 1984 with three members of an active service unit jailed two years ago.

Sentencing him at the end of a trial surrounded by extensive security measures, Mr Justice McCowan said: "I can have no doubt that when you took part in that conspiracy

you knew very well that the pretty well inevitable result of what you did would be that life would be endangered.

"This is a very serious offence. You must be seriously punished."

He made the device used to kill four soldiers in Hyde Park in July 1982, the court was told.

McNamee's conviction is regarded by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch as one of the most important they have achieved.

Police believe that McNamee made the devices across the border from his home in Crossmaglen. They point out that since his arrest last August the rate of bombing has fallen.

His fingerprint was found on a battery left on a bomb defused in Kensington in December 1983 and on tape round two devices uncovered in comprehensive arms and explosives caches in Berkshire and Northamptonshire.

During the two week trial McNamee, a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, gave evidence in his own defence and told the court he abhorred violence. Describing himself as an Irish nationalist and not a republican he said he had carried his own father to an ambulance after a bar was bombed in 1975.

# Protest threatens Belgian ports

By Ruth Gledhill in London and Susan MacDonald in Boulogne

Thousands of ferry passengers face disruption today as the French fishermen's blockade threatened last night to spread to most French and Belgian ports.

The action is almost certain to become widespread along the French and Belgian coastline if the fishermen's talks with the French government fail to resolve the dispute.

The blockade spread from Boulogne and Calais to Dunkirk and Dieppe yesterday afternoon, forcing ferry companies to cancel dozens of services and divert passengers to the Belgian ports of Zeebrugge and Ostend.

Further chaos is predicted today if Belgian fishermen carry out their threat to join the French blockade, and the French blockade extends to Le

Havre and Cherbourg as some ferry officials were suggesting. This would effectively strand thousands of British ferry passengers on the Continent until the end of the day.

Last night, about 80 fishing boats lined up across the entrance to the port of Boulogne, allowing only emergency vessels through and the occasional freight vessel late.

Calais was blocked by 20 fishing boats and dozens more were believed to be heading for Dunkirk and Dieppe. Most of the boats in the blockade came from Boulogne, said Mr Gerard Barron, information officer at the port of Calais.

Ferry companies in Britain were unable to calculate the cost of the protest yesterday, but most sailings to Calais and Boulogne were cancelled and sailings to other ports were affected towards the end of the day.

As the blockade moved in on Dieppe, a Sealink ferry to Newhaven was stranded in the French port. More than 200 passengers, 18 cars and three coaches waited at the terminal to hear if the blockade would lift after the results of talks were known.

P&O European Ferries, formerly Townsend Thoresen, cancelled all of its 10 sailings each way between Dover and Calais and eight each way between Dover and Boulogne.

Sealink cancelled six sailings each way between Folkestone and Boulogne and 16 each way between Dover and Calais. The company would normally have expected up to 6,000 passengers a day on each route.

It ran four sailings to Dieppe but cancelled the last five.

The Sally Line successfully ran its first service from Ramsgate to Dunkirk but cancelled the two following services.

The French fishermen are protesting against what they see as an infringement of their fishing rights by Britain.

On October 1 Britain extended their territorial waters under the Territorial Sea Act 1987 and effectively barred French fishermen from areas

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# Back-bench anger over child benefit

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Conservative and Labour backbenchers yesterday criticized a Government announcement that child benefit paid to seven million families is to be frozen to target assistance to those most in need.

The protests from the Conservative back benches were led by Sir Ian Gilmour, the former Cabinet Minister, who described the decision as "discrimination pure and simple against families with young children".

His anger at the announcement was shared by Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, was followed by several other critical interventions from Conservative MPs.

The Government may face grave problems if women in Conservative constituencies and backbenchers from both the left and right of the party manage to mount a strong

campaign of opposition to the proposal.

The decision to freeze child benefit at £7.25 a child was made with proposals to increase the retirement pensions of married couples and single people in line with inflation from next April.

A married couple's pension will rise from £63.25 a week to £65.90, and a single person's from £39.50 to £41.15.

Supplementary benefit is to be replaced by a simpler income support and the family income supplement will be replaced by a family credit benefit, which will be means tested.

Mr Robin Cook, the shadow Cabinet spokesman on health and social security, described the proposals as a

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# Police remove Ibrox video from Scottish TV

By Roddy Forsyth

Police in Glasgow yesterday visited the headquarters of Scottish Television and removed a video recording of the Rangers-Celtic match at Ibrox on October 17 during which three players, the Rangers goalkeeper Chris Woods, the captain Terry Butcher and the Celtic forward Frank McAvennie, were sent off.

Last week Glasgow's procurator fiscal, the official responsible for inaugurating prosecution under Scottish law, asked police to carry out an inquiry into incidents on and off the field during the game at which 62 people were arrested, mostly for minor offences.

A police spokesman last night confirmed that the removal of the film was intended to assist the investigation.

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Accused found guilty of rape

A former handyman accused with two other men of murdering four members of a Hampshire family and their nurse was convicted of robbing them, and of rape, by a jury at Winchester Crown Court last night.

After a three-week trial George Stephenson, aged 36, of Elgar Road, Coventry, was found guilty of robbery on September 1 last year at Burgate House, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, the home of Mr Joseph Cleaver and his wife, Hilda, both aged 82. He was also found guilty of the rape of Mrs Wendy Cleaver, aged 46, the Cleavers' daughter-in-law.

George Daly, aged 25, of Deedmore Road, Coventry was also found guilty of the same offences, which both men had denied. Daly's brother John Daly, aged 21, has pleaded guilty to rape.

The jury was unable to agree on murder charges against all three men and will continue deliberations today.

## Ruling reserved

The House of Lords reserved its decision yesterday on whether the families of the 44 crew lost when the bulk carrier Derbyshire sank off Japan in 1980 can claim for compensation against the owners.

The families seek to reverse a Court of Appeal ruling blocking their claim under the 1969 Employers' Liability (Defective Equipment) Act by convincing the Law Lords that a ship can legally be classed as "equipment".

## Tribute to rescuers

Townsend Thoresen, which became P & O European Ferries six days ago, paid tribute yesterday to almost 400 Belgians and Britons who took part in the Herald of Free Enterprise rescue operation.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P & O, was host at a reception and luncheon aboard the Frigate of Dover, moored close to the berth at Zeebrugge used by the Herald before her tragic voyage last March.

He presented a silver plate to Mr Olivier Vanneste, the governor of West Flanders. Among guests who received medals showing the Channel coastlines were members of the Belgian and British armed forces, the police and emergency services, and the Zeebrugge port authority.

## Argyle to retire

Judge Argyle, QC, the outspoken Central Criminal Court judge, is to retire next year.

Judge Argyle, aged 72, a former army major, had kept the date secret until yesterday. He disclosed the date when he decided to hear the case of an alleged woman pickpocket on July 8. "That is my last day as a judge, assuming I live that long", he said.

Judge Argyle has rarely been out of the headlines since taking over his Central Criminal Court duties in 1970.

## New prison lifestyle


A new prison wing to house prisoners, including sex offenders, who may be attacked by other inmates is nearing completion at Channings Wood Prison, near Newton Abbot, Devon.

Each of the 56 prisoners in the unit will have their own cell and will be able to work in a greenhouse or workshop. Mr John Home, head of custody at the 482-prisoner jail, said: "The prisoners in the new unit will have more freedom. Their lifestyle will be transformed."

## Royal apples on sale

The Queen's Sandringham Fruit Farm began selling "windfall" apples to the public at the knock-down price of 10p a pound yesterday.

Twenty tonnes of apples were blown off trees in the recent gale. The royal orchards will be open until Sunday night for pick-your-own visitors.



**Base Rate**

**BCC announces that from 28th October, 1987 its base rate is changed from 10% to 9.50% p.a.**

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## EEC gives £73m to develop industry in regions

By Ronald Faux  
Employment Affairs  
Correspondent

EEC regional grants of more than £73 million have been made to 14 major investments in industry and infrastructure in Britain.

The allocations from the European Regional Development Fund, announced yesterday, include £14.6 million for five projects in the North-west, including the construction of a new railway line between Manchester Piccadilly in the south-east of the city and Manchester Victoria for routes to the north-west.

At Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, a grant of £1.6 million has been made towards the extension of a container terminal to accommodate the bigger ships on the Mediterranean and Iberian run. The investment could safeguard about 200 jobs at the port and many other jobs that depend on the shipping trade.

In the West Midlands, a grant of £5.6 million has been made towards a section of the Birmingham middle ring road, which connects the M6 with numerous industrial firms and sites.

Three projects in Scotland have received £10.3 million in grants, including £3.3 million for a new ferry to improve tourist and commercial traffic on the Oban-Mull-Colonsay run.

The South-west receives £8 million in grants towards projects, including an electricity cable link to the Isles of Scilly, allowing tariffs to be reduced to mainland levels and helping to stimulate the islands' economy.

In Northern Ireland, the conversion of Kilroot Power Station to dual oil and coal firing has been allocated

£23.8 million. It is the biggest single grant ever awarded to the province and an important step towards reducing a total dependence on oil.

In Wales, a £10 million grant has been made for the construction of the central link of the Cardiff peripheral distributor road built by South Glamorgan County Council. Three Labour-controlled inner-city authorities have joined forces in a Government supported attempt to create jobs. The Manchester, Salford and Trafford authorities are pressing for £181 million from the EEC to help fund a five-

year jobs strategy costing a total of £637 million. It is hoped that the balance will come from central government, statutory undertakings and the private sector.

Mr Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council, said yesterday: "What makes this partnership unique is that it brings together three local authorities which have different approaches to regeneration." The policies of left-wing-led Manchester City Council were normally at odds with the more moderate Salford and Trafford councils. An inner-city task force in

Bristol has set up a new scheme to show unskilled jobless people how to build their own houses and improve their chances of employment.

The co-ordinator of the project is Mr Chris Gordon, aged 27, who five years ago was one of 12 unemployed young people who built a block of flats.

Mr Gordon is the first full-time co-ordinator for self-build projects in Britain. As head of the Bristol Self-Build Development Agency, he has received £25,000 in aid from the St Paul's Inner City Task Force.

## Government seeks to take control of teachers' pay

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Government is proposing to take powers to enable it to determine the pay and conditions of all 440,000 teachers in England and Wales.

The plan was outlined in a Green Paper presented to Parliament yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mr Baker also announced that next year's pay rise for teachers is not to cost more than £300 million, equivalent to an average increase of 5 per cent and substantially less than the current average rise in non-manual earnings.

The Green Paper proposes a new body, the Teachers' Negotiating Group, to replace the Burnham committee, which Mr Baker abolished last March. It will be a statutory committee on which the Government will have a majority of votes on the employers' side.

The rest will be distributed among the representatives of the 104 local education authorities, who will continue to employ the majority of teachers. The teachers will be represented by their six unions.

If a majority on both sides of the committee cannot agree on a settlement and one side is against going to arbitration,

the Government will have the power to impose its own terms, subject to parliamentary approval.

The Green Paper emphasises both the profusion of interests in education and the big proportion of public expenditure represented by teachers' pay. It adds that by 1990, when the rating system is due to be reformed, "a larger part of the teachers' pay bill will be funded by central grant than by locally determined taxation".

It says: "These considerations taken together lead the Government to conclude that the Secretary of State's representatives should have a majority of votes on the management side of the Teachers' Negotiating Group".

The proposals were condemned by Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of the education committee of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities. He said: "The freedom to negotiate freely with your employer is the hallmark of a democratic society. The new proposals will deny that to teachers. They are a disastrous recipe for continual conflict of the kind we have seen in the past few years."

The Green Paper also pro-

poses the introduction of regional variations in teachers' pay. Looking further ahead, it suggests that once schools have been given responsibility for their budgets they could take over the negotiation of pay and conditions of service on a school level.

Both proposals were condemned by the National Union of Teachers. It said the value of a teacher was the same "in Newham, Oxford or Cumberland".

The Green Paper rejects a national joint council suggested by the unions and local authorities as "likely to give rise to some of the same problems as the discredited Burnham committee".

It also rejects the independent review body proposed by, among others, the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations. It says there is no evidence that the majority of teachers would be prepared to commit themselves to abandoning the use of industrial action.

The decision to limit teachers' pay rises next year to £300 million was announced in a letter to Lord Chilver, chairman of the interim advisory committee. *Teachers' Pay and Conditions*, Cm 238 (HMSO, London, £4.50).

## Irish kidnapping

## Inquiry on gunmen's escape

By John Cooney

An embarrassed Irish justice minister ordered an inquiry yesterday into the failure of police to secure the release of Mr John O'Grady from his kidnappers at a remote hide-out in Co Cork.

Mr Gerry Collins was also angered that one of three getaway cars used by the gunmen was found abandoned early yesterday morning by shooting their way through a police cordon at a farmhouse near Midleton.

The escape has boosted the reputation of the man believed to be the gang's leader, Dessie O'Hare, the most wanted fugitive in Ireland. A former member of both the IRA and the INLA, O'Hare is said to operate as a freelance terrorist. He is known as "The Border Fox" and is also wanted by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in connection with a number of murders.

This latest exploit has reopened the controversy about the efficiency of the Irish police only a month after a senior RUC officer complained about the southern force's inexperience and lack of sophistication in dealing with cross-border terrorism.

The police were accused by the Irish media of badly

bungling the rescue operation on Monday, in which detectives outnumbered the three kidnappers by at least five to one. The gunmen escaped with their handcuffed captive by shooting their way through a police cordon at a farmhouse near Midleton.

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ment was the failure of the Irish police to capture a criminal gang in the Dublin mountains wanted in connection with the theft of paintings valued at £20 million from the world-renowned Beit collection.

Monday's escape has also focused attention on the fact that during the 1983 search for Don Tidy, the English-born supermarket executive, his kidnappers twice escaped from police before being caught.

However, the charge of police bungling was rejected by Mr O'Grady's father-in-law, the millionaire Dr Austin Darragh, who expressed on radio the family's "total and complete confidence in the police".

Mr O'Grady was abducted from his home in Dublin two weeks ago instead of Dr Darragh, the intended victim. The gang demanded a £300,000 ransom, but Dr Darragh has made clear that he has no intention of paying it.

## Saleroom

## Nero finds his followers

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

If the Chancellor of the Exchequer is like Nero, fiddling while Rome burns, he is not alone. The entire art market seems to be with him, maintaining an eerie state of buoyancy.

Yesterday, Christie's London sold a twentieth century netsuke for the world record price of £12,100. Meanwhile, Phillips' auctioneers were marvelling at the prices raised by both Old Master paintings and Art Nouveau ceramics.

Netsukes originated in Japan as toggles to fasten the kimono, and to act as counterweights for keys and purses.

Nowadays, the modern Japanese gentleman has no use for them, but craftsmen go on carving them, and, as this sale from the collection of the Californian Raymond Bushell shows, collectors go on buying them.

Symbolically, the highest price was for a netsuke carved as an Anagatsue doll - a kind of amulet which used to be placed near the head of a newborn child to draw any potential bad fortune away from it. Although it was bought anonymously, quite a number of the highest lots were bought by the London firm of Ekenazzi.

The final total for the 300-lot netsuke sale was £813,417 - just over the estimated target.

Over at Phillips's, Mr Brian Koester, the Old Masters expert, appeared to be swooning at the high price raised by a painting of the Madonna and Child he had catalogued as a "Follower of Titian".

According to the catalogue, this places the work low on the authenticity scale, below "attributed to", "studio off" and "circle of". But, estimated at £2,000 to £3,000, it sold for £20,900.



Mr Mitchell (left) and M Douffignies in Kent yesterday in front of a mock up of a Channel Tunnel train (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## French unhappy with 'slow' tunnel links

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The French gave a warning yesterday that they could not be satisfied with British Rail links to the Channel Tunnel which travelled at only half the speed of trains linking Paris with the tunnel.

M Jacques Douffignies, the French transport minister, was visiting the site of the British entrance to the tunnel at Shakespeare Cliff, near Folkestone, for the first time.

He had travelled from London to Ashford by rail with Mr David Mitchell, the Minister of State for Transport.

Mr Mitchell said he thought that M Douffignies had been surprised at the length and narrowness of tunnels, the difficulty of the terrain and the extent of urban sprawl, all of which made the construction of a high speed railway line from Dover to London much more difficult and expensive

than building a line across northern France.

Mr Mitchell also pointed out that the French link to the Channel tunnel would be a spur of a network linking Paris to Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne, which gave economic advantages which a single line through south-east England would not.

M Douffignies said he appreciated the difficulties, but it was not possible to be satisfied for ever with average train speeds from Dover to London of under 70 mph.

He said the French trains would be able to travel from Paris to Calais, about 205 miles, in little more time than trains in Britain travelled the 74 miles from Dover to London.

British Rail have plans to increase the maximum speed on some sections of the route from 90 to 100 mph.

## Kasparov dejected by draw

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville

The close of a World Championship game was greeted with absolutely no applause for the first time in my experience at the end of the sixth match on Monday night.

The Spanish spectators were clearly disenchanted with the lack of action in Gary Kasparov's attempted comeback after his disastrous defeat in game five.

Kasparov, playing white, once again chose the English opening and speedily built up a promising position by advancing on the Queen's wing. He then concentrated his forces against Anatoly Karpov's weaknesses in that sector.

However things began to go badly for the champion after this promising and aggressive

start. On move 23 he inexplicably rejected the active move Bc5, favouring a passive retreat instead. Then, on move 24, Kasparov chose to consolidate his pawn structure instead of bringing another piece into the attack by means of Nxb3.

Karpov adroitly moved to a drawn ending of bishops and knights. The disappointed champion offered the draw when playing his twenty-eighth move and it was briskly accepted.

At the end of the game, faced by the resolute silence of the audience, Kasparov sat for several minutes staring dejectedly at the board.

The score is three and a half points to Karpov and two and a half points to Kasparov.

White	Black	White	Black
Kasparov	Karpov	Kasparov	Karpov
1 G4	e5	15 Qc4	f5
2 Nc3	Nc6	16 Nc2	Nf7
3 Bg5	g6	17 Rb1	Rd8
4 Bg2	g6	18 Rb1	Rd8
5 Rb1	Bb5	19 Rd3	Rd8
6 Bc3	Qc7	20 Qa6	Nb8
7 B4	Bg7	21 Bb4	Rb8
8 Nf3	Nb8	22 Ne4	Kf7
9 Nd5	c5	23 Bc3	Rd8
10 Ne3	bxc5	24 exd3	Qc7
11 Nc3	Ne7	25 Bc3	Bc8
12 Bb3	0-0	26 Qc5	Qc5
13 Nc3	h6	27 Bxc5	Ne6
14 0-0	Bc6	28 Bb4	draw

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# Graduate who mastered art of killing



July 20, 1982, Regent's Park, eight died: an injured bandsman is comforted. July 20, 1982, Hyde Park, three soldiers and seven horses died. A car bomb was detonated as cavalrymen passed by.

A victim of the 1983 Harrods bombing.

## 'IRA recognized McNamee's talent and encouraged him'

By Stewart Tendler and John Cooney

The Army bomb disposal team inched painstakingly for hours along a South Armagh road towards a triple booby-trapped bomb built round a petrol tanker and 700lbs of explosive. As they worked for six days late in October 1984, IRA men watched through binoculars from across the Irish border.

Police believe one of those observers was Gilbert "Danny" McNamee, a science graduate nurtured through university by the Provisionals, and convicted yesterday as one of the greatest of the IRA bomb-makers.

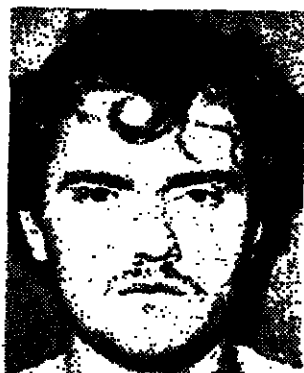
When the soldiers finished and the device was finally made safe the Royal Ulster Constabulary could only describe it as "fiendish". It had taken the expertise of the Army's chief bomb expert in Ulster and one of the largest explosives operations ever mounted in the province to defeat McNamee.

But it was a small defeat for the quiet, slightly built man credited by police with making up to 80 bombs that have killed or wounded scores of people in Northern Ireland and London.

It is said by Scotland Yard detectives to be one of the most important convictions they have achieved in the long battle with the Provisionals.

Detectives say they do not believe McNamee made the bomb that devastated the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the Conservative Party conference but a long-term device in an explosives cache linked to McNamee's disappearance.

McNamee is, however, held



Gilbert McNamee: nurtured through university.

responsible for a bloody catalogue of 10 bombs exploded in Britain, including the one at Harrods in 1983, those at Hyde Park and Regent's Park in 1982 and a series of attacks in the autumn of 1981. They killed 19 people and were responsible for injuries to a further 183.

In Northern Ireland his expertise in radio-controlled, booby trapped and time delayed devices has wrought havoc on the RUC and the Army in the bandit country of South Armagh close to his home at Crossmaglen. He not only made bombs but sometimes detonated them himself.

Five soldiers died in a radio-controlled bomb blast on the Irish border in May 1981 soon after McNamee is known to have started making bombs. In the same year two bomb disposal experts were killed by booby traps.

He was arrested and

charged by the Garda early in 1984 with offences involving circuit boards and explosives but was freed to continue his work when the case against him was dropped.

A second court case collapsed a year later but by then he had become the target of a long-term surveillance operation.

Although McNamee was a child of the "troubles", there was for years little to rouse the curiosity of the Garda, the RUC or MI5. The short-sighted McNamee seemed to lead a blameless life.

In retrospect it seems McNamee had made a compact with the IRA. He was under orders to maintain a low profile.

During his trial, McNamee emphasized that he and his father were Irish nationalists and not republicans. Two of his cousins were killed by the IRA as police informers but he never mentioned another cousin, Patrick McNamee, who was sentenced to eight years in jail in Dublin in 1982 for explosives offences.

The point of McNamee's own recruitment is not known but in 1975 his father, Thomas, died after a public house bombing in Crossmaglen.

There might have been pressure for the older children to go out and work for the family but McNamee stayed at school, prompting speculation that the IRA recognized a potential talent and encouraged him.

He left the Abbey Grammar School at Newry with 10 O levels and three A levels

bound for Imperial College, London, to read electrical engineering in the autumn of 1979. He stayed only four days before returning to Northern Ireland to read physics at Queen's University, Belfast. Imperial College has no record of the reason for the change.

Within a year of starting studies which included rudimentary electronics, bomb experts believe McNamee had in 1980 started to build the first of a dozen radio-controlled bombs that appeared in Ulster in the space of 18 months.

In his holidays he was returning to Crossmaglen and then crossing the border to work with a company in Dundalk specializing in amusement machines. The firm for which McNamee went to work, the Kimble Manufacturing Company, was run by two brothers, George and James McCann. George

McCann was given a three-year suspended sentence in France two weeks ago for arms smuggling linked to the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and his brother is wanted in Ulster as a member of the Provisionals.

Kimble Manufacturing made electronic poker games for arcades and McNamee worked behind that cover.

When the Maze hunger strike collapsed in the autumn of 1981, police believe it was his bombs that supplied an active service unit headed by Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley and were used to spearhead a bloody autumn of attacks in London.

In the month that McNamee received his degree two of his bombs ripped through Hyde Park and Regent's Park in the ambush of a cavalry troop and a military band.

He denies ever returning to London after the abortive stay in 1979 but police suspect that he was back in the capital in 1983. A bomb defused in Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, west London was later discovered to have his print on a battery, and the position of the print suggests that the bomb-maker actually activated his device.

A second bomb left in Woolwich, south-east London also failed to do any damage but a few weeks later the Provisionals unleashed the Harrods bomb that killed five people in an attack one Saturday lunchtime in the run up to Christmas.

In January 1984 police mounted a surveillance operation on Kavanagh as he arrived from Dublin; it led them to a second cache in Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire.

A month after the Salcey find, McNamee discovered he was the centre of attention for the Garda. He was arrested with two others, one also a science graduate, on charges involving circuit boards and explosives. The case collapsed in May 1984 after one of the other defendants was acquitted. McNamee was free again but the police offensive did not stop. Early in 1985 Kavanagh, Quigley and a third man called Natalino Vella were convicted in London for their roles in the 1981 bombing campaign. Kavanagh and Quigley each received 35 years while Vella, who spoke at length to the police, got 15 years.

Their bomb maker was still free but then the Garda struck again.

McNamee was in court in Dublin in October 1985 on an

arms charge: the Irish court threw out the case on a technicality. However, McNamee, having escaped the Irish courts again, was about to see his luck change.

In January 1986 he was held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by the security forces during a seemingly routine sweep in Crossmaglen. The object of his arrest was to take his fingerprints.

McNamee was released and heard nothing more but in London his prints were being matched against the thousands of prints recorded by police and taken from the scenes of terrorism.

In London a match had been made with a fingerprint on the piece of tape from the Salcey Forest cache. It was enough on which to hold him until the experts went on to discover more prints in the battery at Phillimore Gardens.

Pure science had trapped the scientific bomb-maker.

## Science versus crime

### Trapped by spots of sweat

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A few ageing spots of sweat and animal fat invisible to the human eye convicted one of the IRA's key members yesterday. McNamee's conviction is the latest success for a specialist group of fingerprint officers at Scotland Yard dedicated to tracking down Provisional IRA terrorists since the early 1970s.

Since the IRA began its operations, the Yard has built up a vast library of fingerprints and partial prints recovered from parts of bombs, weapons and the hiding places of active service units uncovered by police.

In the 1970s, at the height of the IRA campaigns in mainland Britain, 250 fingerprint officers were involved in investigations in which over 30 million print comparisons were made, leading to 300 identifications linking 100 terrorists to attacks.

A year ago, the squad played a significant part in the conviction of Patrick Magee, after the Brighton bombing. They also provided evidence to convict two of McNamee's co-conspirators, Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley, in 1985, and for the attempt to extradite Evelyn Glenholmes for her alleged part in London bombings.

The arms caches on which McNamee's prints were found

The McNamee trial has seen one of the tightest security operations ever mounted at a London court. Armed policemen ringed Court Number Two each day and Mr Justice McCowan had a bodyguard throughout the trial.

The marksmen, from the City of London police, took up position with flak jackets under uniform pullovers each morning outside the court.

Each day, McNamee was driven to and from the high security wing at Brixton prison in an armed convoy watched by a police helicopter.

have also yielded the prints of at least two other IRA figures yet to be captured. Fingerprint experts now use a vast array of technical equipment including lasers, and Home Office scientists have produced a huge handbook for fingerprint officers showing them the techniques that can be employed on a wide range of surfaces.

McNamee was caught by a number of reliable methods which revealed the three prints on which the jury convicted him. Two of the prints were left on pieces of insulating tape used to wrap components of radio-controlled bombs hidden in arms

caches in Pangbourne, Berkshire, and Salcey Forest, Northamptonshire. The third was left on a battery uncovered after a bomb was defused in Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, west London.

The print on the smooth surface of the battery was revealed by coating it with aluminium powder, which adheres to the fats in fingerprints, and then photographing the result.

The print on one of the pieces of tape was brought up using radioactive sulphur dioxide, a system first developed in the early 1970s which is effective in studying coloured tapes used in electrical work or wrapped around tools.

The article is placed in an airtight chamber filled with radioactive sulphur dioxide which reacts to the constituents of the fingerprint. The print remains invisible until it is sandwiched between X-ray plates on which the mark is left.

The print on the second tape was revealed with gentian violet, another method of dealing with a sticky surface. The chemical, which is highly toxic and used only in special circumstances, stains the fatty constituents of the print purple enabling them to be recorded.

## Police using decoy car to trap thieves

A computerized decoy car is being used by the Warwickshire police to trap car thieves, it was revealed yesterday.

The car is fitted with an immobilizing device which cuts the ignition and locks the reinforced doors and windows. A warning alarm then alerts a local police station.

The four-door family saloon is parked by the police in dimly-lit areas making it an ideal target for thieves.

The Warwickshire police are using the vehicle to help combat a 70 per cent increase in car crimes.

Inspector David Fry, who is in charge of the operation, said: "Anyone attempting to steal it is in for a big surprise. They won't know how big until it's too late."



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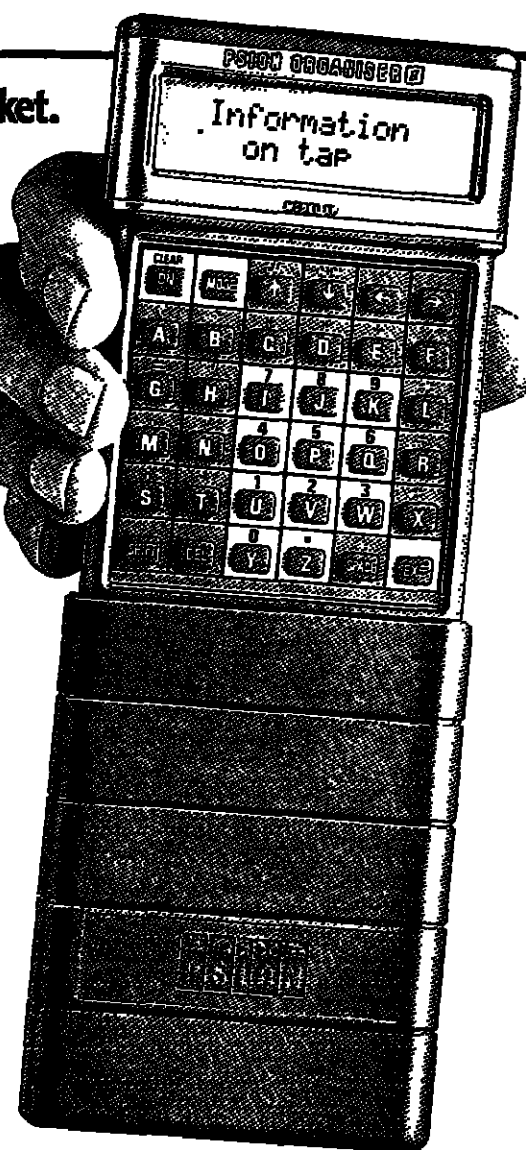
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October 27 1987

## PARLIAMENT

## Chancellor says Britain is able to weather the financial storm

## Lawson promises early decision on the BP sale

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will reply by Thursday to the request from the BP share sale underwriters to terminate the sale. In a Commons statement he said that he had been surprised by the request.

He made clear that, under the terms of the sale, he was contractually bound to consider the application.

In his statement, which also covered the situation in the financial markets, he said that Britain's robust economic health put it in the best possible position to weather the storm.

In his private notice question, Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, asked the Chancellor to make a statement on the financial situation and the consequences for the sale of BP shares.

Mr Lawson said that the sharp falls in share prices throughout the world over the past fortnight would tighten monetary conditions somewhat and were likely to have a dampening effect on world demand.

It was far too soon to put any figures on this, but he had already responded by reducing interest rates by 0.5 per cent and interest rates had also come down in the United States.

"I will, of course, continue to watch the situation closely and take whatever steps are required."

He was also in regular touch by telephone with the other main industrial countries.

"Meanwhile, the robust economic health and sound public finances which we have in this country — (Conservative cheers and Labour laughter) — put us in the strongest possible position to weather this storm, just as we successfully coped with the year-long coal strike and the collapse in the world oil prices."

As for the implications of the

stock market slide for the BP sale, there was provision under clause 8 of the BP fixed price underwriters' agreement for the underwriters to seek consultation with the Treasury if most of them formed the opinion that there had been an adverse change of circumstances, as specified by the agreement, in the light of which they believed that they were no longer assuming a proper underwriting risk.

He had been informed by Mr Rothschild and Sons, on behalf of the UK underwriters, that a majority now took that view.

"They therefore sent a written representation to the Treasury yesterday afternoon seeking consultation with a view to

### Robust economic health puts us in strong position

terminating the offer for sale. I have to say I was surprised by this (loud Labour laughter).

"I am now considering the points they have made, as I am contractually bound to do."

The underwriting agreement set out steps that must be followed for the consultation process to be triggered. The Treasury would consider the representations and consult BP.

Rothschilds would also seek BP's view. Rothschilds and the Treasury would then consult together. If they were unable to agree, they would jointly approach the Bank of England for its assistance.

"I will take full account of that assessment before I take a final decision."

"It is my intention to proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with the proper observation of the procedures. The House will understand that, now that the underwriters have invoked this consultation process, I cannot say more until the process is concluded, but I will gladly listen to the views of MPs."

Mr Smith said that Mr

Lawson should be ashamed that he had to be dragged reluctantly to the House to answer a private notice question when he should have volunteered a statement on his own initiative days ago.

It was clear that the fundamental reason for the collapse in international markets was the irresponsibility of governments, including the British Government, in facing up to the problems of the US deficit and the Japanese and German surpluses.

Instead of taking steps gradually to reduce the US trade deficit and simultaneously to expand other economies, governments staffed by people such as Mr Lawson, accepted to free market theories, had abandoned their responsibilities to markets, the activities of which the Chancellor had described as absurd, and which, according to the Prime Minister, were involved in 5 per cent trade and 95 per cent speculation.

"Does he understand that finally the free market chickens have come home to roost?"

The Government should now co-operate in setting up a new economic summit of the G7 countries to tackle the deficit problem in a way that would avoid recession, open up opportunities for growth and deal constructively with the debt problems of the developing world.

On the question of BP, would the Government explain why it had to take so long to go through the procedures that the Chancellor had outlined when Mr Lawson had made it crystal

### Free market chickens have come home to roost

clear that he intended to hold the underwriters to their obligations?

Would it not be wiser, as they were only hours away from the close of the offer, for him to

show a little more urgency in the consultation? The Chancellor should have given a definitive answer today.

Whatever happened, would he confirm that the Government was obliged to purchase 450 million new shares at 330p and that the difference between the price at which it had committed itself to buy new shares and the present value in the markets was more than £300 million?

Would he also confirm that, whatever happened, £20 million would have been wasted on an extravagant advertising "hype"?

It was extraordinary that, while all this money was being wasted, the Government was cutting child benefit because it claimed that the country could not afford to set it at a decent level.

"Whatever happens to the underwriters, the decision to sell the whole of the Government's stake in BP has been profoundly foolish."

The Chancellor had claimed that his whole purpose in the BP share sale was to widen share ownership. What was left of that purpose now?

Mr Lawson agreed that the size of the United States budget deficit was way ahead of the Americans' capacity to finance it. That was an important problem in the world economy at present.

But it was impertinent of Mr Smith to blame the British Government when, three years ago, Labour was attacking the Treasury and saying that Britain should follow just those sort of policies (loud laughter).

He agreed, too, on the importance of G7. It had never been in better shape during his time as Chancellor of the Exchequer than it was now. It had stabilised exchange rates, among other things.

The workmanlike co-operation that the G7 nations had, which he hoped could be built



The Chancellor said he was surprised by the underwriters' request

upon, was more serious than empty waffle about "non-existent plans and some summit".

The BP underwriters had approached the Treasury at 4.20pm on Monday afternoon. He would now go through the consultation procedure as

quickly as possible.

"I hope to reach a conclusion by Thursday" (Labour shout of "Thursday" and some laughter).

As for Mr Smith's assertion that the Government had pledged to buy BP shares at

£3.30, that was not true (laughter).

Mr Smith had also said that it was wrong to sell BP shares. Yet it had been a Labour Government, in 1977, that had first sold part of BP to the public (Conservative laughter).

## Legal limits on what I can say, Thatcher tells Kinnock

The BP share issue and the crisis in the world's stock markets was first raised at Prime Minister's question time.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bootle, Lab) asked whether the Government had, in the light of the BP share issue, revised downwards the amount that it expected to raise from selling the water industry.

The Government had estimated that it might raise £2 billion and, with assets worth £25 billion, that was selling off cheap. Would the amount now be about £4 billion, bearing in mind that it would cost £2 billion to £3 billion to install water meters compulsorily in everybody's homes?

Ms Margaret Thatcher: The paving Bill before the House will have to go through the House and there will be other legislation. The underwriters

have made representations to the Treasury that the BP issue should be withdrawn. The Chancellor is considering them, as he is contractually bound to do under the terms of the underwriting agreement, and will explain the procedures later.

Sir Peter Tapsell (East Lindsey, C): The present crisis in stock markets round the world is primarily an international rather than a national problem and needs an international co-operative response.

In particular, it needs first an early announcement from the Federal Republic of Germany that they intend to reduce interest rates. Second, it needs an early announcement from President Reagan and Congress that they intend to put up their taxes.

Third, it needs continuing international supervision and control of

the new and ever-proliferating financial mechanisms which if necessary will prohibit some of these speculative instruments if we are not to be faced by an international financial Frankenstein.

Ms Thatcher: I would agree with him that the matter of the United States budget deficit needs dealing with, and I believe is being dealt with.

The co-operation of Germany, and of course Japan, in the Louvre agreement was reaffirmed by Mr Kohl. That has a considerable influence on exchange rates.

Interest rates have been falling, particularly at the long end of the market, as people have gone into gilts and bonds. We have reduced our interest rates, so we have played our part in sound financing, for which I have been criticised, but it has

turned out to be the safest thing.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition: It is clear that the underwriters of the BP share issue do not consider the sale to be a proper underwriting risk in terms of the prospectus. Does she agree or disagree with them?

Ms Thatcher: Perhaps he did not quite hear what I said earlier. There are restrictions on what I can say.... Labour MPs: Why?

Ms Thatcher: For legal reasons there are restrictions on what I can say, but on the matter of whether the BP issue should be withdrawn, the Chancellor is considering that, as he is contractually bound to do, in terms of the underwriting agreement. He will explain the procedure in his answer later.

Mr Kinnock: She knows very well

that there is no legal consideration which forbids her responding, especially when the underwriters have made the position so clear. Indeed she has an absolute duty under the prospectus to respond.

Conservative MPs: No.

Mr Kinnock: The absence of a firm decision only prolongs and increases instability. Is her refusal to say what her position is not a pathetic evasion of responsibility?

Ms Thatcher: With all due respect, Mr Kinnock has not taken due account of what I said. The Chancellor is contractually bound to consider the representations in terms of the underwriting agreement. He must make due and proper consideration. That is what he is doing.

Mr Kinnock: The underwriters made representations yesterday.

Everybody knows that the Chancellor has an obligation to discuss the matter with them and, if there is failure to agree, to consult the Bank of England. I ask again: Why the delay? Why is she prolonging instability?

Ms Thatcher: He knows the Chancellor must go gently through the procedures. That is what he is doing.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Lab): She has had a chance to hear Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, whose motto is "My word is my bond". The BP issue is fully underwritten and should go ahead. The underwriters have done well for some years. Now is the time for "My word is my bond" to be taken up.

Ms Thatcher: The Chancellor must follow the procedures he is contractually bound to follow.



Mr Alan Beith: Question about small investors.

Britain had allowed the free market to operate within the control of the Treasury.

To get international confidence into the money markets the most urgent thing was for President Reagan to make up his mind as soon as possible to increase his taxes and cut public spending.

Mr Lawson: "There is probably general agreement in the House with what Sir William has said."

To be fair, action was not called for only from the Americans. In current circumstances there was a danger that monetary policy in the Federal Republic of Germany was really rather too tight and he hoped there would be action on that front, too.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said that nobody would be surprised if there was a change in monetary policy in the Federal Republic of Germany was really rather too tight and he hoped there would be action on that front, too.

"The real effects are far more likely to be a serious curtailment of investment, curtailment of consumer spending and a rise in unemployment." Was the Chancellor, therefore, ready to take counter-recession measures, a package, national and international, to meet the scale of events?

Mr Lawson: I will take whatever action I believe to be necessary in the circumstances.

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashted-under-Lyne, Lab), chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, asked Mr Lawson to dismiss the impertinence of the underwriters in hyping the sale to force their responsibilities and liabilities.

Sir Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C) said that the over-reaction of the stock market should not lead the public into believing that the British economy was less strong than it was. Would it not be bad for the long-term future of the country if emergency measures were to be taken? The rules as they stood ought to continue and the underwriters (laughter) should not be relieved of their responsibilities.

Mr Lawson said that he noted carefully his reference to underwriters (further laughter). The Conservative Party had an extremely strong and confident performance by British industry.

Mr David Blunkett (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab) said that in a democracy the Chancellor was accountable for the economy and what happened to public assets rested with him. A capital-owning, share-owning democracy was neither democratic nor effective.

Would the Chancellor cease the sale of further major public assets? The most widespread form of share ownership was social ownership.

Mr Lawson accepted that he had a heavy responsibility. Share ownership was not to be condemned as it was to be welcomed and the privatization programme would continue.

## Anonymous tests for Aids rejected

The idea of anonymous screening as a way of providing accurate information on the spread of Aids was rejected by Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, during question time in the Commons.

The suggestion came from Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C), who said that it would be a simple and cheap method because many blood samples were taken routinely.

Mr Moore said that the Government wanted information on the spread of HIV infection. He was anxious to ensure that the best scientific information was available, though not necessarily by the route suggested.

Mr Robin Cook, from the Opposition front bench, asked if it was correct that 1,200 haemophiliacs had contracted Aids "at the hands of the

National Health Service, through receiving infected blood transfusions".

Was that a result of the Government's failure to make the country self-sufficient in blood products?

Mr Moore confirmed the figure. He said that he had the deepest sympathy with those affected, but that there had never been a general state scheme to compensate those who suffered adverse effects that might arise from medical procedures.

Later, Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C), to cheers from both sides, asked the Prime Minister to consider the desperate plight of haemophiliacs, suffering through no fault of their own. Mrs Thatcher said that she would discuss the matter with the Minister for Health.

fully.

## Mental hospital plans

Planned closures of mental hospitals should go ahead very carefully because some of the individuals involved still needed in-patient care, Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, said during questions.

He disclosed that there are 60,379 mentally ill people in hospital in England and a further 8,267 in special residential care.

Mr John Birtles (Battersea, C)

"drew cheers from all parts of the House when he called for correction in what he described as the imbalance in the mental health budget, under which, at present, 90 per cent went to hospitals and only 10 per cent to care in the community."

Mr Newton agreed with the general thrust of what he said. Hospital closure proposals should be handled very carefully.

fully.

## Sentence rights queried

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government promised in the Lords, during the fourth day of the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, to consider abolishing a right to recommend the minimum term to be served by a murderer sentenced to life imprisonment.

Some peers also expressed support for replacing the present murder and manslaughter changes with one of uniform killing to remove the difficult distinction.

After a debate on life sentences, the Earl of Caithness, Minister of State, Home Office, agreed to look at all the issues before the next stage of the Bill and the related amendments at present.

Lord Hinchinson of Lullingstone (SDP), moving an amendment for abolishing the recommendations, said that it had the approval of the all-party penal affairs group.

He said that, between 1965 and 1985, judges made 244 recommendations as to the minimum sentences to be served and in only seven cases were prisoners released before that time.

The recommendations were used in an entirely haphazard manner, with some judges favouring them and some not.

There would be no increase in child benefit next April. Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the Commons in a statement.

To Opposition cries of "disgrace", he said that higher child benefit would be of greatest help to those who were already well off and whose living standards were already rising.

In contrast, it would give no extra help to more than three million children in families on social security benefits and low-income working families.

Child benefit now cost more than £4 billion, nearly 10 per cent of the whole social security budget, and an increase would not be the best use of resources at present.

The particular need was to target help on those who most needed it and to control the overall growth in social security expenditure.

Mr Moore was outlining his plans for the next spring of the budget, when he would introduce a system of income-related benefits that would take place for most benefits in the week beginning April 11 next year.

He said that the retirement pension for a married couple would rise from £63.25 a week to £65.90, and for a single

## Social security payments statement

## Opposition fury as Moore says child benefit will not be raised next April



Mr John Moore: Fostering incentives to work.

person from £39.50 to £41.15, in line with increase in prices of 4.2 per cent.

He had decided to upgrade all contributory benefits, benefits for the disabled, war pensions and similar benefits by 4.2 per cent also. Public service pensions would be likewise increased.

The new system of income-related benefits would be introduced next April. Supplementary benefit would be replaced by the simpler income support, housing benefit by a redesigned system aligned with income support, and family income supplement by the new family credit.

"This new, more coherent and better targeted structure will focus resources more clearly where it is most needed and will foster incentives to work."

Overall, income-support claimants would be receiving higher real levels of benefit than under the previous figures.

Sick and disabled people would be getting an increase under the new scheme of nearly £5 a week in disposable income.

"Even with no change in the rate of child benefit, we will be increasing, not reducing, the overall level of resources devoted to families with children."

"We will be spending £220 million extra on the new family credit and £100 million extra on family income support. By contrast, full uprating of child benefit would have cost £120 million."

"Moreover, family credit will go directly to help low-income working families with children reach twice as many people as the present family income supplement."

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that the statement would result in a cut in benefit for more claimants than any uprating statement made by Mr Moore's predecessors in the past eight years.

On income support, almost four million claimants on supplementary benefit would not get a penny extra in increased benefit next April.

Those worst affected would be those disabled claimants who would not qualify for the disability premium and could lose entitlement of up to £50 a week.

Could he confirm that one million claimants would lose all their entitlement to housing benefit?

A couple of million pensioners would now receive a rates demand for the first time in years.

If Britain had the fastest growing economy in Europe, why had the Prime Minister given them the lowest pensions in Europe?

Worst of all was the freezing of child benefit which would affect seven million mothers.

How could the Tories pose as the party of the family when they had cut support for school meals, school transport, school clothing and now the volume of child benefit for the second time in three years?

Mr Moore said that total benefits would now be half-a-billion pounds more than in the last published plans.

## Whips' row delays watchdog decision

Continuing disputes between Government and Opposition whips have caused the recreation of the all-party Commons select committees — Whitehall's watchdogs — to be postponed.

The Committee of Selection responsible for choosing committee members wanted to begin the process today, but has been thwarted because the whips are still arguing over chairmanships and over the composition of the Scottish affairs committee.

A big dispute over the composition of the defence select committee is also imminent. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the Labour whips have finally decided to replace Dr John Gilbert, the former

defence minister and outspoken critic of his party's unilateralism, with a member of CND.

That may cause the protest resignation of Dr Gilbert's two multilateralist committee colleagues, Mr Bruce George and Mr Dick Douglas. It would mean the Ministry of Defence withholding the classified information which enabled the committee to produce a string of top-quality reports in the last Parliament.

It will also lead to a Commons debate exposing Labour's deep defence divisions because senior backbench Tories have already indicated that they will object.

It is possible for the Conservatives to table and carry an

amendment putting Dr Gilbert back on the committee, thus thwarting the Labour whips and creating a bitter constitutional dispute in the process.

The chairmanships disputes appears to centre on the social services committee, which has had a Labour chairman for many years. The Conservatives are said to want it back because it is likely to be a key committee in the new Parliament.

Other sources suggest that Labour wants to swap it for another committee chairmanship to avoid having to make the independent-minded Mr Frank Field, Labour's sole obvious contender, the chairman. Labour is believed to

want either the energy or environment committee chairmanships.

The dispute over the Scottish affairs committee has been caused by the Government's post-election inability to muster enough Scottish Tories to form a majority. It is believed to have suggested a reduction in the size of the committee so that it can retain a majority, but Scottish Labour MPs are in uncompromising mood.

Mr Derek Foster, Labour's Chief Whip, has made clear his determination to block the formation of any committee if he believes that the Government is behaving unreasonably.

## £2,500 confidentiality bill

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Tory MP is facing a £2,500 legal bill having successfully resisted an almost unprecedented attempt to have his confidential correspondence with a constituent produced as evidence in open court.

Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North, was twice summoned to appear at Maidstone Crown Court where his constituent, Miss Wendy Burgess, was a principal prosecution witness in a trial that saw the defendant, Manjit Singh Gill, imprisoned on two counts of soliciting to murder.

He finally appeared under protest earlier this month, having been subpoenaed by

the judge, Mr Justice Leonard, and warned that not to do so would have been a criminal offence.

The prosecution argued that the correspondence could have contained evidence of a criminal conspiracy against the defendant.

Mr Greenway countered that absolute confidentiality between an MP and a constituent was a cornerstone of parliamentary democracy and could not be breached. The judge finally read the correspondence in private and declared that it should not be produced as evidence.

Mr Greenway said yesterday: "It's a gross im-

position on any MP to have to find £2,500 for doing a public duty, all out of taxed income."

However, he said that he was delighted to have won an important test case. "I act on the principle that I will take a constituent's confidence to the grave. To have violated that would have been extremely serious for democracy, itself and my relationship with my constituents."

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and Industry, Conclusions of debate on the defence estimates.  
Lords (2.30): Debates on child health services and on the disabled.



# Field sports spending at £1,800m a year

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

More than £1,800 million a year is spent on field sports in Britain, only slightly less than on admissions to spectator sports, and more than on tickets for the opera and pop concerts.

The figures were given to a conference held in London yesterday to launch a book which examines the relationship between hunting, shooting and fishing, and conservation and wildlife.

It was commissioned by the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports which includes sporting and landowning organizations, representatives of the Home Office, Department of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Scottish and Welsh Offices, Countryside Commission, Forestry Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, Sports Council, local authorities and the police.

The author, Mr Robin Page, is a farmer, naturalist, writer and broadcaster, who does not hunt, shoot or fish. But he makes a powerful case for field sports benefiting the national economy and the environment, and he insisted yesterday that this was his personal view, and that he had not been under pressure from any of the sponsors.

He writes of a huge and growing gap between town and country. "Urban views and values seem to dominate the countryside, its ways, its wildlife and its people seem ignored or misrepresented", he says.

This situation is often made worse by deliberate misrepresentation, both in the media and by some anti-field sports organizations. As a result it is widely believed that coursed hares are released from boxes in front of the dogs, whereas the animals are wild and unrestricted.

Similarly it is thought that foxes are bred in captivity to be released on the day of a hunt. In reality there are probably more wild foxes in Britain today than ever before.

Mr Page accuses tabloid newspapers of being among

# Lowry's home from home is unveiled



Miss Shelley Rohde, the biographer of L S Lowry, relaxes in a facsimile of the artist's sitting room that she helped to recreate at Manchester City art gallery for an exhibition celebrating the centenary of his birth. Most of the furniture and effects are lent by his estate (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

## University research Hunt for 'anti-gravity' force

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Newcastle University is setting up an experiment to search for a mysterious "anti-gravity" force, the existence of which would threaten some of the most established ideas in science.

The force, which weakens the effect of gravity over distances of a few yards to a mile, was predicted in the early 1970s. Last year, reports emerged in the United States and Australia that such a force had been discovered. A team led by Professor Keith Runcorn, of Newcastle University's physics department, is joining the international hunt for proof that it exists.

According to Professor Runcorn, most of the experiments to date have not been sensitive enough to detect the force, which is thought to

## BBC newsreader in 'state of panic'

Miss Jan Leeming, the former television newsreader, was squirted with ammonia at the BBC and robbed by three intruders, a court was told yesterday.

They snatched her handbag while she was temporarily blinded and stole £23, Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, was told in a written statement.

The attack, in January this year, happened when Miss Leeming, aged 45, was on her way to read the 10pm Sunday news.

Carrying a briefcase, coat, personal files and shoulder bag, she walked towards the adjoining room which housed the children's programme, *John Craven's Newsround*.

She told police: "As I pulled back the door to open it I saw three figures about three to

# Cricketer killed by bolt of lightning

A cricketer was killed by a lightning bolt which threw an entire team to the ground, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Martin Whittaker, aged 27, was fielding during a match in west London in August when he received a direct hit on the head by the single lightning strike.

The bolt shredded his clothing, scattering it over a 40ft area and punched a fist-sized hole in his cricket cap, the inquest, at Hammersmith Coroner's Court, west London, was told.

Mr Richard Wildman, a friend and team mate in the "Economicals" side, said in a statement that there had been a little light rain during the game, but no sign of a lightning storm.

He said he was 30 yards from Mr Whittaker, who was fielding at midwicket in a match against the Old Isleworthians at the Wood Lane grounds, Isleworth, on August 22.

"I heard an incredibly loud bang, and a flash. The next thing I knew was that I was on the ground."

"I looked around and saw that all the other players had been thrown to the ground. Four didn't get up, the bowler, batsman, wicket keeper and Martin."

"I saw the bowler was moving and moaning. I went to Martin and saw his clothing was in shreds."

Players tried to resuscitate Mr Whittaker, of Northolt, west London, but he was dead when an ambulance arrived.

Dr John Burton, the coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

**The going rate**

Ratepayers in Daventry, Northamptonshire, will never pay rates again under a district council plan to sell building land for £45 million and finance services on the interest.

**Arts meeting**

Sir Claus Moser, recently retired chairman of the Royal Opera House, is to head a four-day symposium in Glasgow next October on the role of the arts in urban planning, staged by the British American Arts Association.

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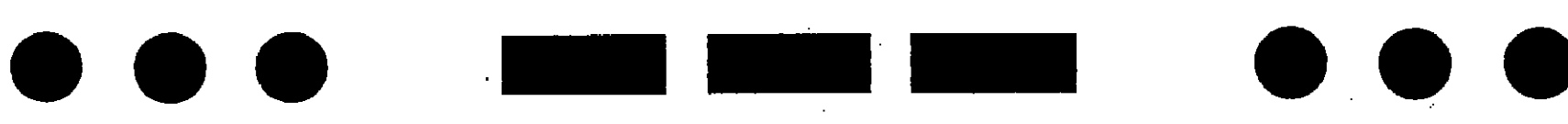
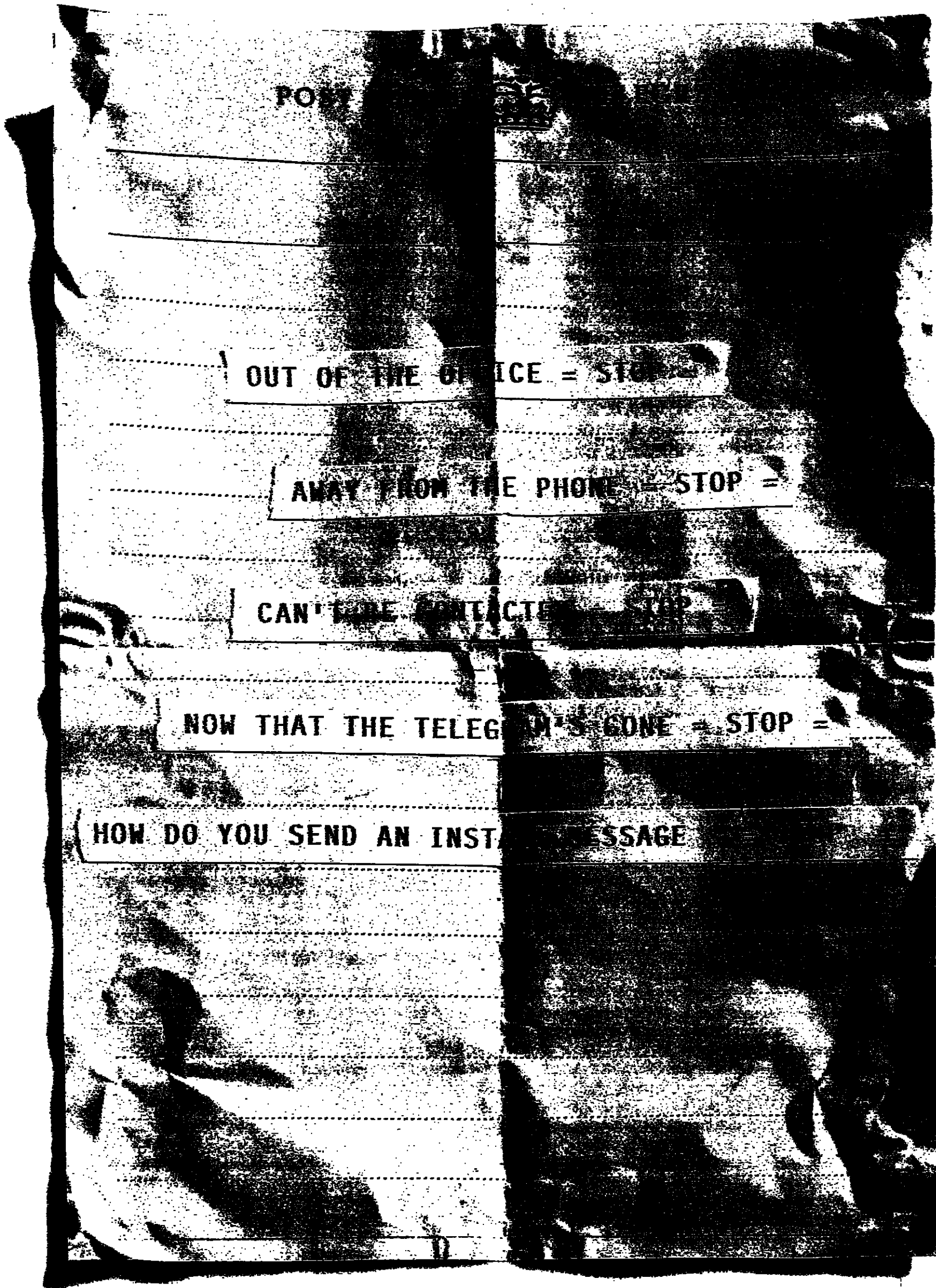
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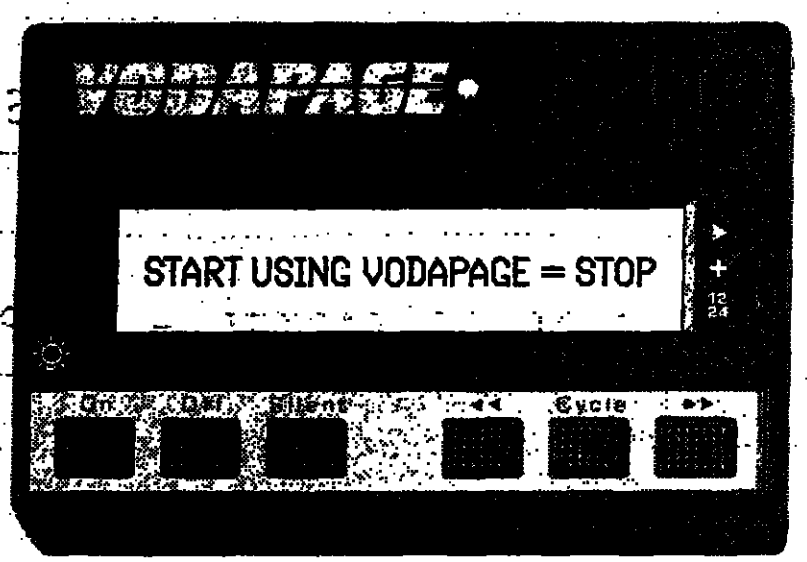
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## WORLD SUMMARY

## US steps up Iran arms ban drive

Washington — After announcing an embargo on all US imports from Iran, the Reagan Administration is stepping up pressure for a United Nations arms embargo on Tehran. It refuses to accept a ceasefire in its war with Iraq (Christopher Thomas writes). President Reagan announced the trade embargo on Monday, together with a list of 14 "militarily useful" items that cannot be exported to Iran.

While Iraq has agreed to abide by the ceasefire if Iran does, Tehran insists that the UN simultaneously appoint a commission to determine who started the war. State Department officials said that Senator Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, will complete his latest diplomatic round by the end of this month. The US wants the UN to impose an arms embargo if those efforts fail.

THE HAGUE — European Foreign Ministers meeting at the Western European Union yesterday issued a warning that if the current peace mission in the Gulf war by Señor Pérez de Cuellar did not succeed "within the next few days", the Security Council would be asked to take "further measures" against Iran and Iraq, including an arms embargo.

## Appeal on Poll blow for Arabs

Beirut — Mr David Jacobson, one of the American hostages whose release last year was apparently obtained after the delivery of American weapons to Iran, yesterday told the group still holding two of his compatriots that they should not expect any compromise from the United States (Juan Carlos Garmucio writes).

The message was contained in a letter to the newspaper *an-Nahar*, addressed to "Haji", whom Mr Jacobson has said is a leader of the Islamic Jihad Shia Muslim group demanding US pressure on Kuwait to obtain the release of 17 Arabs imprisoned there.

Mr Jacobson appealed for the immediate release of the hostages.

Jerusalem — More than 40 per cent of Israeli teenagers believe that the rights of Arabs and of students in rabbinical seminaries should be reduced because neither group serves in the Army, according to an opinion poll (A Correspondent writes).

Forty-two per cent of the 612 people polled, aged 15 to 18, said that they opposed equal voting rights and free speech for Arabs. Seventeen per cent of Israelis are Arabs, and more than a million others live in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and are not citizens.

The groups inspiring least confidence were journalists, businessmen and politicians. Most confidence was expressed in the defence forces, the law courts and doctors.

## Boy 'sold' for cocaine



Chicago (AP) — Authorities are working to deny custody to a pregnant drug addict of her 22-month-old son Anthony, left, after she identified him as the child she swapped for £50 of cocaine.

Police, not realizing that Anthony has been in foster care since he was found abandoned in June, had been looking for him since they arrested Ms Lou Ann Powell, aged 26, on an outstanding prostitution warrant in July.

## Refusenik Air drugs gang held

Jerusalem — Mr Vladimir Stepak, who waited 17 years for a Soviet exit visa, longer than any other Jewish "refusenik", arrived in Israel on Monday night (A Correspondent writes).

He said his departure did not reflect a change in Soviet policy. "We must not forget that the struggle is not yet over."

Mr Stepak was one of the founders of the movement for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

## Air drugs gang held

Lusaka (AP) — Police have broken up a drug-smuggling ring that paid Zambia Airways cabin crew to transport heroin and other drugs from India to England.

Mr Paul Malukula, the Home Affairs Minister, said the ring was controlled from India, where dealers hired airline employees to carry drugs to Lusaka and then to London. The operation was broken after a joint investigation by British Customs officials and Zambian police anti-drug units.

## Mourning Reagans

Washington — Mrs Nancy Reagan flew to Phoenix with President Reagan yesterday after the death on Monday of her mother (Christopher Thomas writes). Mrs Edith Davis, aged 91, a Broadway actress in her youth, died at a nursing home of a stroke. Mr Reagan flew back to the White House last night and will join his wife at the weekend.

Mrs Davis, who encouraged her daughter in an acting career, was known throughout the United States as "Lucky". Her daughter once said of her: "If I could be half the woman she is, I would be happy".

## Political fallout from the stock market slide

## Peking bolsters recovery in Hong Kong

By Michael Dynes

Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, last night told international businessmen and investors he was confident that the underlying strength of the British colony's economy would enable it to weather its present financial difficulties.

His speech, delivered at a banquet hosted by the chairman of the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, was clearly buoyed by news of a partial recovery on the Hang Seng index, Hong Kong's main share indicator, which registered its worst-ever decline on Monday after losing 33 per cent of its stock value.

The recovery has been largely

attributed to a decision by the authorities in Peking to participate in a second rescue package, put together yesterday by the Hong Kong Government and local businessmen in an effort to bring back a semblance of normality to the colony's volatile stock market.

The intervention of the People's Republic is widely seen as an emphatic demonstration, if any were still needed, of Peking's determination to maintain the viability of Hong Kong as one of the world's leading financial centres in the run-up to 1997, when the colony reverts to Chinese jurisdiction as a special administrative region.

But China's interest in Hong Kong goes much further than merely adhering to the provisions of the 1984 Sino-British accord, which requires both signatories to maintain Hong Kong's economic viability up to, and for 50 years after, the transition period. In addition to the benefits that Peking anticipates by way of increased trade and investment from the West, China's acceptance of Hong Kong's status as a bridgehead between the free market and a centrally planned economy also has serious implications for the advocates of reform within the Chinese leadership.

The opponents of Mr Deng Xiao-

ping, the paramount leader in the Chinese Communist Party, who are long renowned for their obsession with order and stability, can be expected to exploit the events of the past week in an effort to demonstrate the dangers of too close a relationship with capitalism.

At the very least, Mr Zhao Ziyang, who is expected to be confirmed as the new party chief after his 13th congress, which started in Peking this week, and who is also a leading advocate of increased economic contacts with the West, will be under greater pressure to convince sceptics within the party that Hong Kong's recent turbulence is not a taste of

what is to be expected when China begins experimenting with its own stock markets in the near future.

Peking is now so concerned about the state of the colony that it has asked Mr Xu Jiatun, head of the New China News Agency, Peking's *de facto* representative in Hong Kong, to stay behind in order to keep it informed on developments rather than attending the congress.

Such anxiety about Hong Kong's financial stability are by no means new. Even the most ardent advocates of economic reform are known to harbour some reservations about Hong Kong's classic *laissez faire* approach.



Traders on the Hong Kong stock exchange gathering to check the Hang Seng index, the main market indicator, yesterday. It reached 2,395.72 by the close after dropping below 2,000.

## How world is weathering the financial storm

## France

The Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, has confirmed that the Government's privatization programme would go ahead as planned (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris).

However, the Finance Minister, M Edouard Balladur, has already announced a postponement of the privatization of Matra. But the corporation, with its involvement in arms and military supplies, is considered a difficult state-owned industry to privatize anyway, and its postponement will give the Government a chance to consider it further.

M Lionel Jospin, for the opposition Socialist Party, said in reply that it was irresponsible to pursue privatization for purely political or ideological reasons.

## South Africa

The flight of capital from South Africa during the past two years has had more serious implications for the country's economy than the shake-out on the stock exchange (Ray Kennedy writes from Johannesburg).

This view has been expressed by Dr Gerhard du Kock, Governor of the Reserve Bank. Since last week more than 68 billion rands (\$21 billion) have been wiped off share values.

But President Botha pointed out that although the country's economy was closely linked to those of its

main trading partners there were features of the domestic scene which put South Africa in an altogether different position.

The main one is gold's predominant role and the fact that only about half-a-dozen institutions, such as the giant Anglo American Corporation and the main insurance houses, dominate the local stock market. They could be back as buyers before the end of the week.

## Australia

The market shock waves that have now wiped off almost 40 per cent from Australian share values hit hardest while the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, was in North America and Europe, and he returned with few comforting words (Keith Dalton writes from Sydney).

But later, speaking to reporters, he echoed the opinion of the Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, who predicted no radical economic policy reversal unless international commodity prices fell or Australia faced a flight of capital.

For the moment, the Government of Mr Hawke is sitting out the share market slump, suffering little public criticism and dismissing opposition calls for a mini-budget to re-set economic policies in the wake of the market crash.

A key test for Mr Hawke is his handling this week of trade union demands for a 1.5 per cent national wage rise, promised under a wage restraint policy first implemented four years ago.

Union leaders agreed to an unprecedented one-week delay in negotiations after last week's market crash. While the Government has reaffirmed support for the national wage increase, the Hawke Government is likely to argue strenuously for a further delay.

## Bahrain

The collapse appears likely to have an immediate but temporary impact on foreign investments by Gulf Arab states and other investors, but relatively little impact on the regional exchanges themselves (Our Correspondent writes from Bahrain).

Investment analysts say that Kuwait's market, the largest in the Gulf, like others in the region is insulated from international market pressures. In Kuwait's case, the Government itself holds at least 50 per cent of the shares traded on the exchange.

Overall, some bankers say, the drop in share prices on international markets may help reduce capital flight, a growing problem in the Gulf because of the Iran-Iraq war. But Arab investors are more likely to wait out the market turmoil than looking for bargains after the record falls, analysts said.

## Japan

Political reaction to the global market crashes has been a muted combination of brave words and little direct action

(A Correspondent writes from Tokyo).

It is far too early to tell if the "wait and see" attitude of the Government has been successful, although no important policy changes are forecast in the short term.

The fact that the country's leadership is in a transition period between the end of the Nakasone administration and the advent of the first Cabinet of the Prime Minister-designate, Mr Noboru Takeshita, may also account for the lack of bold political responses from Tokyo.

## W Germany

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister, said that the Government would stick to its privatization programme and would put the rest of its stake in the Volkswagen concern on the market in the near-future (John England writes from Bonn).

Herr Friedrich Ost, the chief government spokesman, for his part said that Bonn was optimistic about money and capital markets. But the present risks could be mastered only by close international co-operation of the kind that Herr Stoltenberg and Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, had agreed upon.

Unofficially, the West Germans see Mr Baker as the villain of the piece because of his attack on West Germany's policy on interest rates and his threat to let the dollar go into a free fall. But Herr Friedrich Chris-

tians, the president of the Deutsche Bank, not only blamed Mr Baker for the crash, but also said that he did not exclude the possibility that Mr Baker had consciously induced it so that share prices could rise again in the US presidential election year.

## Soviet Union

A key economic adviser to the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, ruled out the creation of a stock exchange in the Soviet Union "in the near future", saying that it could "unbalance" the economy (A Correspondent writes from Moscow).

The economist, Mr Abel Aganbegyan, told a news conference here that, while "we are not against this (the stock market), we can't do everything at once", in terms of radically reforming the sluggish and centrally-planned Soviet economy.

He noted that price reforms were already in the pipeline as the economy decentralizes to a limited extent, with business and factories starting to function on a profit-and-loss basis. "If we begin to create a stock market, this could unbalance our economic development," he said. "Therefore we will not set up the market of capital in the near-future."

## Brazil

Black Monday caught this country in the middle of delicate negotiations with foreign creditors and both sides want an honourable exit from

an eight-month debt moratorium (Mac Margolis writes from Rio de Janeiro).

The stalemate has slowed vital flows of capital to Brazil's sputtering economy. Now there are contrary readings on the fallout from the stock crash. Some believe that the prospect of world recession will help the rich nations pressure the intransigent Brazilians into falling into line in its repayments.

Senator Severo Gomes, a senior member of the ruling Brazilian Democratic Movement, declared that Brazil should not accede hastily to any emergency schemes, such as the Reagan Administration's recent appeal for it to make a symbolic "goodwill" debt repayment.

## Israel

There are worries that American aid of \$3 billion a year will be reduced, and a warning to this effect has already come from the American Embassy (A Correspondent writes from Jerusalem).

The Defence Ministry has said that any reduction in American military aid will have to be made up from the budgets of other ministries, so that Israel's security will not suffer. This would entail drastic cuts in social services and education, already functioning on minimal budgets.

Another source of funding for Israel's extensive educational and social systems is also likely to be hit — hundreds of millions of dollars donated each year by world Jewry.

## Central America peace agreement

## Managua ready to talk with Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The left-wing Sandinista Government of Nicaragua is expected soon to agree to proximity talks with the US-backed Contras, representing a sharp reversal of its outright refusal to deal with the rebels.

The move is in response to intense pressure from Latin American countries, which had feared that Nicaragua's refusal to negotiate would kill off the Central America peace agreement that is due to take effect on November 7.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the country's Roman Catholic Primate and the most

respected opposition figure, is likely to be the go-between. He is understood to have told the Sandinistas that the Contras want to negotiate a complete ceasefire and an across-the-board amnesty.

He has maintained frequent contacts with the rebels, and last weekend met them in New York to discuss the possibility of being an intermediary for talks with the Nicaraguan Government.

Congressional sources said Mr Jim Wright, Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, will visit

Central America next month. He is closely involved in shaping the Democrats' policy for winding up the rebel army and providing substantial US funds to help resettle individual Contras.

The vast majority of the rebels would opt to settle in the United States, but senior officials have made clear that such an idea would meet with fierce resistance.

The Democratic leadership in Congress is convinced that it now has the votes in the Senate — it certainly has them in the House of Repre-

sentatives — to support a programme of resettlement and wind down US involvement with the rebel force.

Democratic Party analysts say the vote would be close in the Senate, but at least two key Southern Democrats have recently indicated support for dismantling the Contras.

The Democratic leadership will probably not press the question to a vote until January at the earliest, and even then they may propose more "humanitarian" aid to keep the Contras functioning until the picture becomes clearer.

with the Contras and had threatened to jail leaders like himself if they set foot in the capital, Managua.

Commenting on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Arias, he said that such prizes should be given for achievement, not just for trying.

Meanwhile, Señor Ortega had introduced only cosmetic reforms in response to the peace proposals, he said. He acknowledged that the Sandinista Government would not be brought down by military action alone. But this was a very important factor, because it helped to rally the people in Nicaragua.

Señor Calero is in Britain for a week and will meet Foreign Office officials and members of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.



Señor Calero: anxious for aid to clinch rebel victory.

peace plan initiated by President Arias of Costa Rica — although it was flawed by the absence of any binding force. But President Ortega of Nicaragua had refused to negotiate

## Rebels ask Britain to help ensure aid

By Henry Stanhope

Anti-communist guerrillas fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua could finish their campaign by the end of the year if they are given the means to do so, the Contra leader, Señor Adolfo Calero, said in London yesterday.

Señor Calero, who is in Britain as a guest of the Conservative pressure group, the Committee for a Free Britain, said that there were signs of war weariness among government forces and also in the Soviet Union, their principal source of supply.

Now he would like Britain to use its influence in the United States to obtain congressional approval for the multi-million-dollar aid package drawn up by President Reagan. Not only did Britain, as Washington's

oldest and closest ally, have it within its power to influence events, but it was in the country's interest to do so, he said.

"For instance, it would be a severe blow to Britain if Mexico was taken over by the communists. And the communists don't just want Central America. They want Mexico to the north and Venezuela to the south — two countries where there is oil," he told *The Times*.

"And Mexico is not immune to social upheaval. The communists want Pacific ports and they need to consolidate their hold on the Caribbean. They already have Cuba, although they have now lost Grenada."

Señor Calero confirmed that the Contras supported the

## MPs back accord on Quebec

From John Best, Ottawa

The Canadian House of Commons has overwhelmingly endorsed a federal-provincial accord aimed at ending Quebec's constitutional isolation from the rest of Canada.

However, deep divisions remain over the price to be paid for reconciliation with the predominantly French-speaking province.

The Commons voted 242-16 in favour of a resolution to approve the Meech Lake accord, named after the Federal Government's retreat north of Ottawa where the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, and the 10 provincial premiers achieved the reconciliation five months ago.

The relatively light vote against the resolution, nevertheless, does not begin to measure the true extent of the troubles still facing the accord.

The opposing MPs came from all three parties, the ruling Conservatives, the Liberals and the left-wing New Democratic Party.

The accord is designed to heal the split in the Confederation that occurred when Quebec refused to accept the 1982 federal-provincial agreement which repatriated Canada's Constitution from Westminster. Part of the price paid for bringing Quebec back into the fold is recognition of the province as a "distinct society" within Canada.

## Launch of Titan boosts US faith in space programme

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States Air Force has successfully launched a Titan 34 D rocket carrying an intelligence satellite, bringing to an end the 18-month-old grounding of the nation's most powerful unmanned launch vehicle.

The launch, from Vandenberg air force base in California on Monday, has "tremendous significance for the nation's space programme," according to Mr Edward Aldridge, the Air Force Secretary.

"It allows us to resume launching critical national security payloads on a regular basis," he said. Not only did it restore the Air Force's ability to place large national security satellites in orbit but also reopened "all of our current expendable launch vehicle

paths to space". The nation's fleet of expendable boosters — Scout, Atlas, Delta and Titan 34 D — are operational again. The Pentagon did not disclose the type of satellite deployed on Monday, but it was reported to be a classified military payload "eye-in-the-sky" satellite, vital to monitoring world trouble spots and verifying that the Soviet Union is not cheating on arms control agreements.

Space experts speculated that it was a KH 11 strategic reconnaissance satellite, weighing about 30,000lb, the size of a school bus, and costing about \$600 million (£360 million).

The Pentagon at present has only one KH 11 satellite operating; its estimated three-year life ends next year.

The launch of the \$65 million (£39 million) Titan,

delayed several times in recent weeks, apparently ends a period in which the main American launch systems have been grounded following spectacular launch failures, including the explosion of the Challenger shuttle immediately after blast-off on January 28 last year. This lengthy grounding had left the country dependent for various national security functions on military satellites already in orbit, including some old ones.

Recent Titan launches ended in failure, one in late 1985 because of a leak which shut down an engine, and the second in April, 1986. The second blew up six seconds after launch.

Nasa has had no manned space flights since the Challenger disaster. The next shuttle flight is planned for June 2 next year.

## 3,000 Tamils arrested in Madras

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

More than 3,000 Tamil demonstrators from south India were arrested in Madras yesterday as they picketed local offices of the central Government to protest at "atrocities" against Tamils by the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka.

Members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, an opposition party in Tamil Nadu, stopped trains entering their state this week but failed to prevent Indian Airlines planes

from flying out of Madras, the state capital, when police intervened.

The DMK says it expresses the majority view among Tamils in India, who are not against Delhi's peace accord with the Sri Lanka Government but are bitter at Tamil deaths caused by Indian soldiers on the island.

Party sources in Madras say that the Indian Government is not taking into account the feelings of Tamils in India. ● COLOMBO: A brief spasm of fierce fighting, in which the Indian forces had three men

killed and 14 wounded, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were said to have suffered 20 deaths, marked the final link-up of the various Indian columns in the Sri Lankan town of Jaffna (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The move, which finally brought the column from the Kankesanthurai-Chunnakam direction into town, was resisted for two hours by the Tigers, who used machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades to slow the Indian advance, an Indian official said here.



## Russians outbid by China with wider choice in party poll

From Mary Dejevsky, Peking

China has trumped the Soviet Union in the "democratization" stakes by announcing that there will be multi-candidate elections for the Central Committee — the body that chooses the Communist Party Politburo.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the 187-member Praesidium on the third day of the Chinese Communist Party Congress in Peking. The meeting, which was chaired by the party's acting General Secretary, Mr Zhao Ziyang, also agreed that the elections would be by secret ballot.

While the principle of multi-candidature is new for the Chinese Communist Party, it has been practised at local government level for several years. The party's version will be strictly limited. Nominations for the Central Committee will exceed places by 5 per cent, while the figure for alternate (non-voting) members will be 12 per cent.

The Central Committee elections are important because there is believed to be disagreement within the leadership about the composition of the new Politburo and about the retirement of elderly leaders.

Earlier in the day, attention had been diverted from congress proceedings by the arrival of the first Taiwanese journalist to report on a Chinese party congress.

When Mr Chieh-hsing Pi, deputy editor of Taiwan's *Global Magazine*, walked into the regular morning press conference 10 minutes late, he was mobbed by Chinese cameramen and television reporters. The noise interrupted the opening statement by a high-ranking party official (on China's science and technology programme) and the large platform party exchanged embarrassed glances.

Mr Pi, however, was warmly greeted when he stood to ask his first question — about the prospects for direct scientific co-operation between China and Taiwan. He was later allowed to ask two more questions, an honour not accorded to other correspondents.

The presence of a Taiwanese journalist reporting on the congress is a coup for the Chinese. Last month two Taiwanese journalists were fêted in Peking after travelling to China independently, against the orders of their Govern-

ment, and probably facing punishment. Now that Taiwan is lifting its comprehensive ban on travel to China, Mr Pi has taken slightly less of a risk. His arrival during the congress, however, allows the Chinese to make considerable political capital out of it.

Taiwan and China have had no diplomatic relations since Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 with his Nationalist Government. China has tried to build on its successful agreements to recover Hong Kong and Macao, and has held out the prospect of a similar "one country, two systems" arrangement for Taiwan. But Taiwan has resisted all Peking's blandishments.

Mr Pi's question answered (the Taiwan Government has refused all China's offers), the conference was given the Chinese leadership's first formal response to the US decision to freeze the further transfer of high technology to China. Madame Zhu Lilan, Deputy Minister at the State Science and Technology Commission, said that the decision was "totally unreasonable". She declined to say what effect it might have on China's research programmes.

## Korea takes vital step on democratic road

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Koo Chang Hoi, the fish seller, played a small part yesterday in changing the course of South Korea's political history.

In statistical terms his contribution was insignificant, but as part of the country's transition to full democracy it was essential.

With 25.6 million other voters, Mr Koo was called upon to endorse a draft Constitution giving them the right to elect their President freely for the first time in 16 years. It also strengthens the National Assembly and the judiciary and guarantees freedom of speech and other basic human rights.

Mr Koo pronounced himself a happy man after instamping a voting form to register his approval of the reforms. "For years we have been oppressed by one government after another. Now the soldiers have to leave politics. Now it is up to us, the people, to decide who runs the country."

His neighbours, who crowded into the polling station in Pongcheon-dong, a working-class district of Seoul, appeared to be unanimous in sharing his views.

For Mr Choi Ki Whan, an office cleaner, the new Constitution offered "softer laws and more rights for poor people". Mr Chang Tai Hee, who earns an average of 400,000 won (£300) a month driving a taxi 12 hours a day, saw it opening up new busi-



A Seoul student hurling a petrol bomb in clashes with the police that provided the only discordant note during the polling.

ness opportunities. "Until now the Constitution was for rich people. The rules and regulations favoured their big corporations, now maybe there will be incentives for small businesses."

Judging by the attendance at the Pongcheon-dong polling station, the authorities' concern that many of the electorate might take a "yes" verdict for granted and not bother to vote, appeared unfounded. A steady stream of voters filed into the station.

The only discordant note was struck by a mob of radical students opposed to the referendum, who hurled petrol bombs at riot police in a brief skirmish outside a cathedral in the capital.

Initial results are expected early today, and since approval is virtually a foregone conclusion plans are already advanced to promulgate the new Constitution on Friday.

The outcome of the next poll, to elect a successor to President Chun Doo Hwan in December, is less certain.

Mr Kim Dae Jung, the veteran dissident leader, is due to declare his candidacy today, thereby dividing the opposition. Reunification Democratic Party which already has a contestant in its president, Mr Kim Young Sam. To make the split for-

mal, Mr Kim Dae Jung intends to launch his own party on Monday.

On paper, this should favour Mr Roh Tae Woo, the former army general who is standing for the ruling Democratic Justice Party. However, he is being challenged from the right by Mr Kim Jong Pil, a Prime Minister under the late President Park Chung Hee, who plans to resurrect his Democratic Republican Party.

### Reporting the Afghan war

## Two US newsmen killed in attack

From Edward Gorman, Peshawar

Two American newsmen are reported to have been killed while travelling with members of the Mujahidin resistance inside Afghanistan in the worst incident of its kind since the Soviet intervention in December, 1979.

The camera crew were named as Lee Shapiro, aged 38, a freelance television cameraman who was married and lived in New York, and his assistant, Jim Lindalos, described as in his late twenties, who was working as a sound man.

According to Western diplomatic and resistance sources, they are believed to have been caught in a Soviet ambush in Paghman, north-west of Kabul, on October 11. The journalists had been in Afghanistan since May and were working on a television documentary about the Mujahidin for Mr Shapiro's New York-based company, Lee Shapiro Media.

A spokesman for the fundamentalist Hizb-i-Islami party, with whom the journalists were travelling, said yesterday: "We have heard that the two Americans, together with two Mujahids and their translator, were ambushed in Paghman. The two Mujahids and the Americans were killed and the interpreter is seriously wounded."

The spokesman added that Hizb-i-Islami were making efforts to contact commanders in the area in an attempt to find out what has happened to the bodies of the Americans, who were on their way back to Pakistan when they were killed.

The American Consul in Peshawar, Mr Michael Malinowski, has confirmed the

deaths, but said he was "uncomfortable" with Hizb-i-Islami's version of events. At first he was told the journalists had been killed in a Soviet bombardment, but this was then changed to an ambush. He said that American consular officials here and in Kabul would continue to investigate the incident in an attempt to clarify the details.

Hizb-i-Islami, a radical and unpredictable group within the resistance led by Mullah Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has been linked with several controversial incidents involving Westerners inside Afghanistan. Recently Hizb-i-Islami commanders were accused of kidnapping French doctors in Badkshan province, and last year a French aid worker, M Thierry Niquet, disappeared while travelling with a Hizb-i-Islami group in north Afghanistan.

Hizb-i-Islami claims that M Niquet was killed in an ambush, but French aid workers believe he may have been murdered.

The deaths of Mr Shapiro and Mr Lindalos bring to five the number of Western reporters killed since Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 1979.

A Norwegian freelance cameraman, Sverre Gundersen, was killed in a battle between resistance forces and Soviet troops near Parah in western Afghanistan in 1982; an Italian, Rafael Favero, died in Paktia in eastern Afghanistan in 1984 after being accidentally run over by a tank captured by the Mujahidin from the Russians; and an American journalist, Charles Thornton from Arizona, was killed in September, 1985, in a Soviet ambush in the southern province of Kandahar.

## Manila doubts on role of America

From Humphrey Hawkeye, Manila

The Philippines Congress is to investigate allegations that the American Embassy in Manila intervened against the Government during the coup attempt in August.

The announcement by leaders of both congressional houses comes during a visit by the US Under-Secretary of State, Mr Michael Armacost, who is trying to quash an increasing number of reports that hawkish elements in Washington are unhappy with President Aquino's Government.

The investigation will focus on Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Raphael, an assistant military attaché at the US Embassy.

In an affidavit published in newspapers here, a Philippine Army commander, Colonel Rene Dado, says that Colonel Raphael repeatedly tried, but failed, to persuade him and his men to call off an attack against rebel troops.

Manila newspapers have revealed that Colonel Raphael is a close friend of the coup leader, Colonel Gregorio Honasan, and is the godfather to his daughter.

The US Ambassador, Mr Nicholas Platt, has defended Colonel Raphael, saying he was simply doing his job because military attachés are meant to keep track of their military counterparts in host countries.

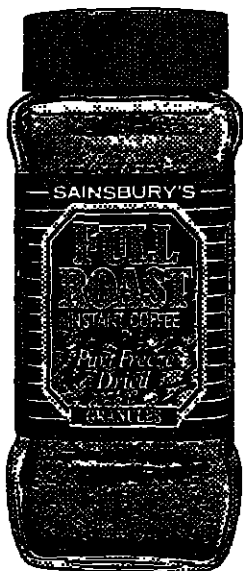
The Government is trying to play down the controversy — particularly while Mr Armacost is in Manila. After a meeting with President Aquino yesterday morning, he said the problem had not even been discussed.

● TV office fire: Two Manila television stations went off the air last night after a fire, preceded by a loud explosion, broke out in a suburban broadcasting complex, fire officials said (Reuters reports).

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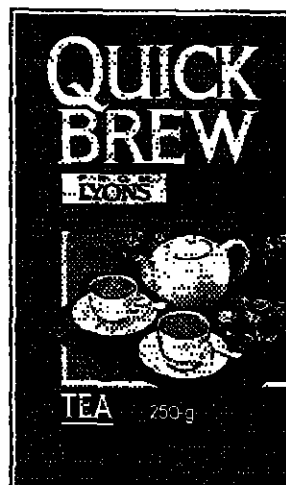
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WEU sets own security goals

# European allies try to allay US fears in fresh defence policy

From Richard Owen, The Hague

Britain and its six European partners in the revitalized Western European Union (WEU) yesterday signalled the beginning of a common European defence policy by issuing a declaration which calls for a "cohesive European defence identity", while containing repeated commitments to transatlantic solidarity designed to ease American anxieties.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and other foreign and defence ministers at the two-day meeting emphasized the importance of NATO. But the WEU declaration - formally termed, somewhat inelegantly, the "Platform on European Security Interests" - launched Europe on the road to a common defence policy with specific reference to the European Economic Community's moves towards political and economic integration.

The impetus towards a common defence policy comes at a time of strengthening bilateral defence links. The latest round of Franco-German talks has recently finished. Paris has indicated that French nuclear missiles could be used to protect West Germany. There have also been recent moves towards Franco-British co-ordination in the nuclear field.

"We are convinced that the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence," the statement said. Sir Geoffrey referred to a "distinctive European contribution" in defence.

Diplomats said the word "platform" was intended to sound less grandiose than "charter", and therefore less threatening to the United States. America's suspicions of the WEU, a moribund body until its recent revival, have been strengthened by the leading role played in the grouping by France. France left the military structure of NATO in 1966, and has pursued a

Gaullist policy based on mistrust of both superpowers. On the other hand, M. André Giraud, the French Defence Minister, who attended the Hague meeting, recently distanced himself from Gaullism and endorsed the NATO doctrine of a nuclear "flexible response" to the Soviet threat. Some sources said that the new defence platform could be seen as a further step towards the reintegration of France into the Western alliance.

Significantly, the document contains specific references to the role of the British and French nuclear deterrents in European defence, as well as an indirect reference to British nuclear co-operation with Washington.

Britain and France, the ministers said, were determined to preserve the credibility of the British and French nuclear forces.

The statement commits WEU members to "a share of common defence in both conventional and nuclear fields". That phrase presents considerable obstacles to other European countries interested in joining the revived WEU, including Spain and Greece, both of which have anti-nuclear policies. Mr Hans van den Broek, the Foreign Minister of The Netherlands, who chaired the session, said the WEU - founded in 1955 - was not an exclusive club. But enlargement should not be allowed to jeopardize its cohesion.

Mr van den Broek said that there was no question of Western Europe standing apart from America and NATO. The aim was not to prepare for an American military disengagement, but rather to strengthen the commitment of US forces to Europe, which were irreplaceable. Sir Geoffrey Howe said that the most distinctive feature of the WEU platform was its assertion that European security was a "single arch with two pillars", one European and one American.

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# Golden find by Australian



Mr Ray Hall showing off some of the gold nuggets he dug out of the ground at the back of his shed near Tennant Creek, Australia, about 625 miles south of Darwin. Mr Hall, who is a retired metalworker, had been "scratching away for years" with a pick and shovel when he struck a vein of almost pure gold (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Mr Hall, aged 62, said he believed he had stumbled on an area worked nearly a century ago by Chinese gold-diggers.

"One of these days you've got to find where it comes from and I've found it," he said. "I don't think anyone's ever seen gold that rich."

Mining officials said that a drum full of ore, which was brought in by Mr Hall last week, was valued at more than one million Australian dollars (£297,000).

Full-scale drilling operations were expected to begin as soon as the find had been evaluated, the mining officials added. The Northern Territory Mines and Energy Minister, Mr Barry Conder, said that the vein of quartz was rich in gold and the find was likely to prove substantial.

"Anyone who can fill a 44-gallon drum with earth and have over a third of it fall of gold in a few minutes is doing all right," the Mines and Energy Minister said.

"It is truly a marvellous story. He and his lady have been scratching away for years in that area and they just stumbled on it," he added. "He was digging out the back of his shed when he came across a whole reef of quartz."

"He filled the drum, left his wife in charge, and drove into town to ask our officials to look at what he had. They almost fell off their chairs - the drum was full of very large gold nuggets."

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"He filled the drum, left his wife in charge, and drove into town to ask our officials to look at what he had. They almost fell off their chairs - the drum was full of very large gold nuggets."

Mr Hall, aged 62, said he believed he had stumbled on an area worked nearly a century ago by Chinese gold-diggers.

"One of these days you've got to find where it comes from and I've found it," he said. "I don't think anyone's ever seen gold that rich."

Mining officials said that a drum full of ore, which was brought in by Mr Hall last week, was valued at more than one million Australian dollars (£297,000).

# Soviet economists say bureaucrats threaten reforms

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Two senior Soviet economists, who think that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's restructuring policy has arrived at a crucial stage, yesterday discussed the main dangers facing the reforms.

At a wide-ranging news conference, the two economic advisers to Mr Gorbachev, Mr Abel Aganbegyan and Mrs Tatiana Zaslavskaya, admitted that the restructuring drive was running into difficulties because of bureaucratic inertia, and that people had staged work stoppages after their pay was cut because of new quality controls.

Mr Aganbegyan announced that the grain and cereal harvest for this year would be quite close to last year's total of 210 million tonnes. He backed down from a previous forecast that it would exceed the 1978 record of 237 million tonnes. The planned target for this year is 232 million tonnes.

Mr Aganbegyan attributed the result to rain during harvesting in the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan. Western experts here say that Mr Gorbachev could run into political difficulties if the harvest is less than last year's bumper crop, obtained largely through the use of intensive techniques. The official figures are expected to be announced soon.

Asked about resistance to the reforms, Mr Aganbegyan said that while he would not consider the possibility of the failure of *perestroika*, as the restructuring of the economy is known, attitudes of "wait and see" and what he called the forces of inertia threatened progress.

He singled out government officials who were paying lip service to *perestroika* but were continuing to work in the old way.

Mrs Zaslavskaya, who concentrates on social issues, said that the main danger for *perestroika* would be to lose the support of broad circles of the population.

Mr Aganbegyan attributed the labour disputes - two of which have been reported in the Soviet press - to the new state quality-control body, known as *Gospriemka*. Press reports have indicated that workers' salaries have been cut because of fines imposed by *Gospriemka* as a result of the production of sub-standard goods.

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# Main points of the charter

Edited extracts from the European security charter ("Platform on European Security Interests") adopted by the Western European Union.

On European Union: We recall our commitment to build a European Union in accordance with the Single European Act, which we all signed as members of the European Community. We are convinced that the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence.

An important means to this end is the modified Brussels Treaty (1948) which, with its far-reaching obligations to collective defence, marked one of the early steps on the road to European unification.

We see the revitalization of the Western European Union as an important contribution to the broader process of European unification. We intend therefore to develop a more cohesive European defence identity.

On NATO and the Soviet threat: We have not yet witnessed any lessening of the military build-up which the Soviet Union has sustained over so many years. The geostrategic situation of Western Europe makes it particularly vulnerable to the superior conventional, chemical and nuclear forces of the Warsaw Pact. This is the fundamental problem for European security.

Under these conditions, the security of the West European countries can only be ensured in close association with our North American allies. The security of the Alliance is indivisible. The partnership between the two sides of the Atlantic rests on the twin foundations of shared values and interests.

Just as the commitment of the North American democracies is vital to Europe's security, a free, independent and increasingly more united Europe is vital to the security of North America. Military security and a policy of détente are not contradictory but complementary.

On US forces and nuclear deterrence: To be credible and effective, the strategy of deterrence and defence must continue to be based on an adequate means of appropriate nuclear and conventional forces, only the nuclear element of which can confront a potential aggressor with an unacceptable risk.

The substantial presence of US conventional and nuclear forces plays an irreplaceable part in the defence of Europe. They embody the American commitment to the defence of Europe and provide indispensable linkage with the US strategic deterrent. European forces also play an essential role: the overall credibility of Western strategy cannot be maintained without a major European contribution.

In the conventional field, the forces of WEU member states represent an essential part of those of the Alliance. As regards nuclear forces, the co-operative arrangements that certain member states maintain with the US are necessary for the security of Europe. The independent forces of France and the UK contribute to overall deterrence and security. The UK and France will continue to maintain independent nuclear forces, the credibility of which they are determined to preserve.

Arms control policy should, like defence policy, take into account the specific European security interests in an evolving situation. We recall the fundamental obligation of the Brussels Treaty to provide all military and other aid and assistance in our power in the event of armed attack on any one of us.

On mutual defence: We shall ensure that our determination to defend any member country at its borders is made clearly manifest by means of appropriate arrangements; improve our consultations and extend our co-ordination in defence and security matters; see to it that the level of each country's contribution to the common defence adequately reflects its capabilities; aim at a more effective use of existing resources, *inter alia* by expanding bilateral and regional military co-operation; and concert our policies on crises outside Europe in so far as they may affect our security interests.

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SPECTRUM

# Lessons in citizenship

It is sometimes called the "hidden curriculum": the package of morality which teachers hope, school-leavers take away and retain long after the past tense of "être" has been forgotten. But as crime among 14 and 15-year-olds reaches dizzy heights, it is clear that the hidden curriculum must come out into the open.

"We are living in a time of rapid cultural and technological change. There are values which, when we were at school, were made explicit. Children now have so much coming at them from all sides: the assumptions we were brought up with are in new contexts. These assumptions — about responsibility, citizenship, living with others — have to be made explicit again, virtually from scratch." Those are the words of David Martin, the philosophical head of Chenderit comprehensive school in Northamptonshire. His school is a test tube in which he is mixing a live academic experiment in "making the hidden curriculum explicit".



**The Government is to spend £11 million on crime prevention, some of it in schools.**

**Sarah Thompson looks at two schools already setting an example**

A "faculty" of Chenderit teachers, trained by the Leicester University Moral Education Centre, is delivering a sophisticated personal and social education (PSE) programme. The timetable has been restructured to allow two hours a week — three for the sixth form — for pupils to work through a syllabus covering personal responsibility, citizenship, the law (and why it exists), as well as careers, health education, form-filling and "study skills".

The local police present a course to 15-year-olds each year, explaining what they do, and why; it begins with the surprise "arrest" of a pupil on whom "drugs" have been planted. This is always a hit and sets the mood for more role-playing games, from a staged road accident outside the school to a full "court sess-

Some teachers have doubts about allowing police officers such a free rein; in a handful of London schools, an extreme version of this view has banned police altogether.

Mike Cross, a lecturer at St Martin's College, Lancaster, had doubts when asked to train officers for a county-wide schools project after the 1981 Moss Side riots.

"I didn't want it to become a PR exercise for the police," he says. "One teacher in one of the schools we started working in objected on political and ethical grounds — but he changed his mind on realizing that it was not a whitewash job, but an attempt to explain the law, why and how it works."

"I also resisted the pressure to make the course a straightforward anti-crime exercise. What we seem to have done, in the end, is to make young-

sters better informed — I wouldn't go so far as to say that they are better citizens, but they are more aware."

Though Cross is wary of hailing his in-school project, now a permanent feature of the Lancashire curriculum, as a crime-beater, a similar two-year-old exercise in Dudley, West Midlands, has had sharp effects. Juvenile crime in Dudley is far lower than in the rest of the West Midlands and the gap is widening.

**A**t Chenderit School, David Martin is also getting results. A truancy rate of 9 per cent is down to 4 per cent. The proportion of pupils staying on in the sixth form has almost doubled, to more than 50 per cent. Older pupils report that bullying is almost extinct; graffiti and vandalism have disappeared.

A different approach in a very different school, a comprehensive riddled by concrete tower blocks in a tough south London district with a youth unemployment rate of 72 per cent, is also reaping real results. When Brinley Morgan, a 40-year-old Welshman, took over Walworth School four years ago, crime and "semi-crime" — petty bullying and playground theft — were rife. The rambling, split-site school was vandalized and covered with graffiti.

Morgan judged that the layout of the school allowed too much space that did not belong to anyone and he introduced a "zoning" system whereby children in one year have responsibility for a particular area.

"Then we dealt with the parts that still didn't belong to anyone: stairwells, corridors, gaps between buildings," he says. "I transformed the tops of stairwells into cupboards so that pupils could no longer gather to cause damage. I cut down the number of staircases that could be used except as fire escapes."



Pupils at Chenderit School use ILEA's *Rights, Responsibilities and the Law*. Such textbooks explain the law well (extract above) but stress rights, not responsibilities. Teachers at the school use the book as only part of the citizenship and moral education syllabus

"I covered up glass partitions, which are easily kicked in, with fireproof notice-boarding — the same for the corridors. These are covered with pupils' work and posters. Everyone told me they would be torn down or defaced in minutes — but they have been respected."

Morgan tours the school lavatories, hunting out graffiti and ordering its immediate removal to prevent it "breeding" — and so they know that someone cares. Flowers and plants have been encouraged — and are not, miraculously, torn to shreds by vandals. Carpers have been laid in the corridors to reduce noise — but children have also stopped dropping litter on the floor.

Morgan issues form tutors with daily themes — homework, behaviour out of school — on which they expand in the 20-minute registration period before lessons, and he writes constantly to the parents, 60 per cent of whom are single. He issues pupils who help at, for example, an after-school concert, with a "headmaster's commendation" certificate.

The "hardest slog" has been reform of uniform, which Morgan insists on. For the first time, pupils are taking pride in their uniform. The results of Morgan's regime have been a reduction in "semi-crime", in vandalism and in the unemployment rate of Walworth school-leavers — down from 70 to 50 per cent.

Both Morgan and Martin have found that moral education does not have a text book. Like Cross, they have built up their materials and style from scratch. Publications such as ILEA's *Rights, Responsibilities and the Law* talk a lot about rights but not much about responsibilities, which both heads feel have been neglected.

Teachers are also woefully unprepared, Martin is appalled by how little training on moral issues and citizenship his staff received as students; hence the need to bring in Leicester University's team.

They have developed with Leicester University's Moral Education Centre. They believe the materials they have written could be used by other schools — but doubt that the Government's national curriculum proposals will give schools time to do the course justice

back when the national curriculum is imposed.

Brinley Morgan called for the Government to take a more practical stand. "If the Government could make a positive statement that reinstates an agreed moral basis to the education system, then schools can build on that. But at the moment schools and police are just a thin red line."

"Developing human potential and teaching citizenship are a whole school subject in themselves," Martin says. "Children need a space in which they can stand back and ask, 'What does it all mean?' We don't want to breed a technologically efficient generation who can't take stock of their lives."

## In the footsteps of a visionary

Over a century the Pasteur Institute has grown into a scientific tower of Babel where 2,000 experts from more than 50 countries pool their knowledge in the endless battle against disease.

The same Pasteur is everywhere in France: on boulevards and squares, on schools, hospitals, community centres. There are Pasteur Institutes in Morocco and Madagascar, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and a score of other places around the globe. Earlier this year, Pasteur even made the front pages of British newspapers when the auction of jewellery bequeathed by the Duchess of Windsor raised more than £30 million for the Institute.

At any moment, doctors,

scientist and researchers, working in the footsteps of Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), will be poring over slides and laboratory data dealing with such ancient scourges as measles and tuberculosis, or redoubling efforts to turn the tide against the world-wide menace of Aids.

Earlier this month, launching the elaborate celebrations of the Pasteur Institute's hundredth anniversary, Professor François Jacob, its president, recalled that it was just over 100 years since Louis Pasteur supervised the first inoculation of a human being against rabies. The patient was a young boy who had been mauled by a mad dog and was comatose, it seemed, to a terrible death.

Pasteur had already produced a rabies vaccine for dogs, but hesitated to test it on



Pioneer: Pasteur (fourth from left) and colleagues at the institute he founded in a courtyard

the boy. Moved by pity, — three of his own daughters had died young of infectious diseases — he finally gave the go-ahead for a series of injections. Within a month the lad was back home, and in that historic victory over what Professor Jacob called "the most insidious of diseases" was founded the Pasteur Institute's long journey of investigation and discovery of the mysteries of human life.

An establishment that began life in a Parisian courtyard alongside coachmen grooming their horses would propel itself into the front line of medical research, producing a handful of Nobel Prize winners, contributing to a stream of breakthroughs against mankind's natural enemies.

With an annual budget in excess of £50 million, almost half of which now comes from the French government, the Institute has come a long way from its first public appeal for cash. The vast list of donors then ran from a country postman, who sent in half a franc, to the Tsar of all the Russias (100,000 francs). During its first full year in an era of shockingly high mortality

rates, above all among children, the Institute treated some 5,400 patients, of whom less than 1 per cent died. Pasteur told the President of France of his cherished objective: "To replace war, bloodshed and death with peace, hard work and good health."

Today only the scale and the sophistication of the Institute's work has changed. In the words of *Le Point* magazine, it has become "a scientific tower of Babel", encompassing around 2,000 people, pooling expertise and research from more than 50 countries.

The Institute's most important work today is concentrated into three main areas: microbiology, immunology and something best described as "development biology", which seeks a deeper understanding of cancer, genetic diseases and diseases of the central nervous system.

Its "star", Aids researcher Dr Luc Montagnier, who collected the lion's share of glory for discovering the virus that causes the disease (known as "Sida" in France), is agreeably frank about the Pasteur's determination to win the race

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**CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1398**

**ACROSS**

1 Elastic (8)  
5 Blotch (4)  
9 Tiny trace (6)  
10 Italian campaign leader (5)  
11 Shameless woman (5)  
12 Forum (5)  
13 1,094 yards (5)  
15 Essential (5)  
16 Tears cloth (5)  
18 Wavily pattern (5)  
20 Harbour (5)  
21 Doubtful (7)  
23 Deserve (4)  
24 Expel by prayer (8)

**DOWN**

1 Egyptian music rite (6)  
2 Put back in (8)  
3 Yank (3)  
4 Hong Kong market measure (4,4,5)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1397**

ACROSS: 1 Hooked 5 Scampi 8 Yew 9 Gammon 10 Ollie 11 Beau 12 Minister 14 Alpha Centauri 17 Impacted 19 Uge 21 Baffle 23 Liquid 24 Era 25 Dashed 26 Roosen.  
DOWN: 2 Orange 3 Lampbrush 4 Dynamic 5 Swoon 6 All 7 Pigs 8 cur 13 Status quo 15 Lumbago 16 Nodular 18 Tweed 20 Crime 22 Fog

# THE 9 LANE FLYOVER TO THE U.S.A.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### The chef suggests...

If the winner of the Booker prize will not be known until tomorrow, I can at least name the winners of two other forthcoming literary awards. In the next few weeks George MacBeth will receive one of the two Angel Hotel awards for East Anglian writers for his autobiographical work *Child of the War*. The 15th century Bury St Edmunds hotel, run by the Gough family, has been awarding local fiction and non-fiction writers with money and dinner for six years. Previous recipients include Rose Tremain and Ruth Rendell (a nominee this year under her pen name Barbara Vine). The £1,000 David Higham Award for best first novel will go on November 17 to Adam Zamojski for his *The 13th House*. It is the first piece of fiction from his publisher, Fourth Estate. The burgeoning book prize business means that writers with the energy to enter could win more than £40,000 in a year.

Three novelists passed over by the Booker judges in drawing up their shortlist are in the running for the £18,500 Whitbread Book of the Year. William Boyd, Bruce Chatwin and Ian McEwan will feature in the Whitbread shortlist when it is announced today. And Richard Illman, the biographer of Oscar Wilde, could have the unique distinction of winning posthumously.

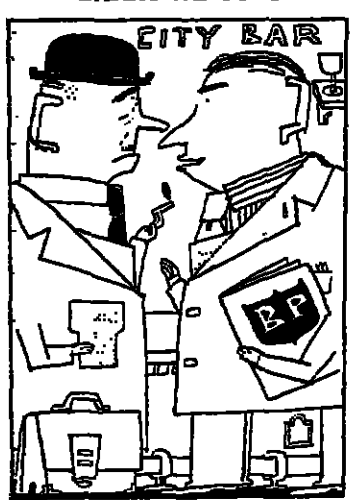
### Vat man

Nigel Lawson is having a really hard time. After being referred to as a "fat boulder" in the Commons the other day by Labour's Tony Banks, I hear that during the good old days before the stock market crash the Chancellor became worried about the increasing number of junior Treasury officials — who earn between £15,000 and £20,000 — forsaking Whitehall for more lucrative jobs in the City. In an effort to staunch the flow, Lawson held a drinks party. Few attended: the invitation asked for a £2 contribution for the wine.

### Ex cathedra

The worthies opposing the government's plans for a core curriculum because it excludes Latin have failed to net what could have been their biggest fish. Lord Hailsham, who took a double first in Greats in 1930, will not publicly support the cause. Senior members of the Classics department at Newcastle University wrote to the former Lord Chancellor, along with other public figures and academics, asked him to write to Kenneth Baker expressing concern that there will be no room for Latin on most school timetables. Those who obliged included Enoch Powell, who wears his classical learning on his sleeve, and academics Sir Geoffrey Elton and Anthony Kenny. The reason for Hailsham's silence? He tells me that, despite his private feelings, it would be inappropriate for him to lobby a former colleague. Anyway, he adds, there is no guarantee the Education Secretary would take any notice of his views.

BARRY FANTONI



"Of course I'm smiling. I did the ad campaign"

### Marooned

After the gales and storms we look set to be doused with red rain. An amateur weather watcher tells me that strong southerly winds are heading for Britain carrying dark top soil from the Atlas mountains in North Africa, rather than the more familiar Saharan sand. Similar fiery drops, he says, fell in February 1982 and July 1968. In 1975 the dust got no further than the Alps, where it fell with snow. The Met Office says the effect is "conceivable" but is not forecast. Fair enough, boys; you do the hurricanes and leave red rain to the amateurs.

• *Soviet Weekly* has hit upon a "superb Christmas present idea": for £7.70, a 30-minute recording of parts of Lenin's 1919, 1920 and 1921 speeches on compact disc.

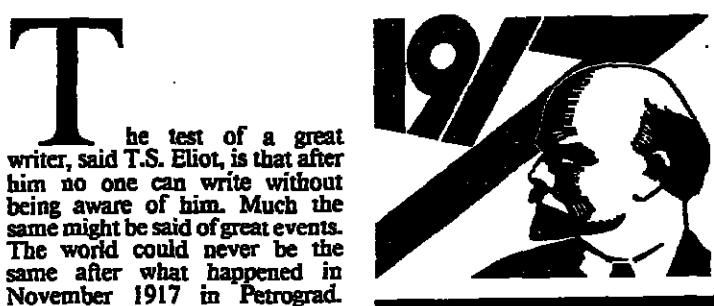
### Casting off

One employee who will pack his bags and leave Conservative Central Office if Lord Young moves in as chairman this weekend will be John Desborough, the communications director. The former political journalist will try to retire again — he joined the Smith Square office 18 months ago at the request of outgoing chairman Norman Tebbit soon after leaving the Mirror Group. Desborough should find life more tranquil pursuing his new hobby, cruising up and down the Broads on the *Beagle*.

PHS

Continuing our series on the October Revolution, V.G. Kiernan argues that it was responsible above all else for today's peace and prosperity

# Why the world is in Russia's debt



**T**he test of a great writer, said T.S. Eliot, is that after him no one can write without being aware of him. Much the same might be said of great events. The world could never be the same after what happened in November 1917 in Petrograd. Nothing else came out of the Great War that made its butchery even remotely worthwhile; scarcely anything else is even remembered.

Russia's old regime crumbled away like a mummy exposed to fresh air; the carnage following the Bolshevik seizure of power was caused, or at least immensely worsened, by the Allied intervention on behalf of right-wing factions bent on civil war. There had been a rehearsal for such intervention in the joint campaign of foreign governments with a stake in China to suppress the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, with the sack of Peking as the climax. Long before that, the crusade of reactionary Europe, including Tory Britain, against the French Revolution had for consequences the Terror of 1793-94 and the wars that convulsed Europe down to Waterloo.

It has often been maintained that Russia would have fared better by following the path of capitalist development, and the liberalism which — it is too easily taken for granted — would have accompanied it. If there was any chance of such a way forward, it was in 1905, the year of revolt against Tsarism headed by the bourgeoisie. Britain and France helped to strangle the rising, from political and financial motives, by lending Nicholas II the money he needed to bring his people back into subjection.

Winston Churchill, a member of the Liberal government responsible, in later years lamented the failure of Western capitalism to "strangle" Bolshevism in its cradle. For years — despite the efforts of the left — the West kept the Soviet Union under virtual blockade. Isolation and continual peril drove it to turn away from good as well as bad in Western life, and to industrialize at a reckless speed. And if Russians were chosen by destiny to show that an alternative form of human society was possible, they had the defects of their qualities, and were less well prepared for efficient organizing. Trotsky contrasted the courage of the workers in the civil war with the difficulty of getting them to keep their rifles clean.

**I**n spite of everything, the Soviet era has been fundamentally one of progress, along a road never before travelled, a triumph of human determination in face of prodigious difficulties, many of them still to be overcome; progress savagely interrupted but not halted by an invasion from the capitalist world as devastating as any Mongol irruption. An admirer must feel painful regrets over many things that have deeply tarnished socialist ideals in the USSR, but he has no need at all to apologize for them to the amazingly self-complacent, self-righteous West. There is no crime of Stalinism that cannot be more than matched in this century's annals of Western behaviour, in or out of Europe. The frightful counter-revolution in Spain was

carried out by fascist intruders with the demure connivance of Tory Britain and France. All the unnecessary sufferings undergone by Russia cannot equal those wantonly inflicted on Vietnam. Western and Japanese capitalists setting up industries in India or China or in Japan itself exploited labour far more brutally than Soviet industry ever did.

Stalinism was a morbidly unnatural outgrowth of socialism; fascism a more natural one of capitalism. Without the Soviet Union there would have been no firm barrier to a fascist takeover of Europe. But for the Soviet army we should all now be Heil Hitler's ghost, with real or feigned enthusiasm. Fascism's defeat was the Soviet Union's most epoch-making service to Europe and humanity.

There have been others. Had Russia evolved into one more industrial-capitalist state, or empire, strife would have continued among all the big capitalist countries, and their shifting combinations, as it did down to 1945. Since then, common hostility to the USSR, as the citadel of socialism, has brought them into amity, or a decent pretence of it. They are afraid now to push their quarrels too far, and are compelled to leave that indulgence to the small fry, such as Iran and Iraq.

Obliged to combine, they have been learning at last the lesson that Norman Angell tried in vain to teach them before 1914, that they should see one another as trading partners instead of as throat-cutting rivals. Roused by the Second World War from long economic torpor, they have had to keep expansion going, and prove the ability of a born again capitalism to raise living standards, in order to take the wind out of

**"In spite of everything the Soviet era has fundamentally been one of progress"**

socialist sails. We owe our affluence to Lenin more than to anyone else.

In the years after 1917 down-trodden Asia was better able than Europe to recognize its world-transforming quality. During the Second World War it was evident to any outsider in India that there was far more popular sympathy with Russia than with Britain. Fear of India drifting too far towards Moscow and socialism does much to account for the grant of independence in 1947. Similar fear of a spread of Soviet influence did much to decide a reluctant West in the end in favour of all-round decolonization. Neo-colonialism, or imperialism in the broader sense, remains, as the case of Nicaragua makes very clear at present; in all such cases the USSR, unlike Britain, has been on the right side.

**A** European revolution this century could take place only in Russia, where most men and women had nothing to lose. It was one of those supreme moments, above and beyond the plane of ordinary existence, when men and women have been found capable, even if half-blindly, of a defiance of fate, a *credo quia impossibile*, that has altered human destinies.

Parliamentary reformism makes life dully comfortable for many or most citizens, but it is all too likely to reduce civic consciousness to "the lure of nicely calculated less or more", of mundane trifles like directors' perks or workers' tea-breaks. Caught in its tenacious web,



## Enter a Scots Lord Denning

Michael Ancram assesses the promise of the new Lord Chancellor

he showed that where it is merited he is capable of interesting his English colleagues in adopting and adapting Scottish attitudes to the legal system. The creation of the new prosecution service independent of the police, along the lines of the Scottish system, owes not a little to the advice and encouragement he was able to provide at an early stage.

As Lord Chancellor he will now be able to exert an even greater influence, and this in two distinct ways. As a member of the Cabinet he will have a direct input into legislative reforms, and as the head of the English judiciary he will have the influence which the status of his office naturally and rightly provides. He will undoubtedly make use of both. His years in England since 1979 have given him close contacts with the English legal world, and he has the advantage of bringing to those dealings a level of objectivity not always possible for one raised and nurtured within the system.

So where will these changes come and what form will they take? It is in the nature of government that many of them will be technical and matters of the moment which at present are beyond the bounds of prophecy. It is not however difficult to imagine that he will, at an early stage, bring to bear his own legal experience as a practitioner, a law officer and a judge within the Scottish system.

He has, for instance, had close and reasonably recent involvement in questions of divorce jurisdiction and matrimonial law, the lessons of which could be brought to bear on the question of family courts.

He will equally be able to make useful comparisons between Scottish and English criminal procedure to see what benefits can be gathered from one to the other to the improvement of both. To a Scottish lawyer the need for opening speeches in criminal trials, with all the dangers of potential prejudice to the accused and the costly taking up of time, has long been a matter of puzzlement. The requirement for a judge in England, to rehearse all the evidence, rather than simply that which identifies the issues between the parties, also might benefit from this type of review.

These, however, are specific matters upon which arguments of detail and extent can and will be made. There is one general and substantial area of distinction between the two systems where the Lord Chancellor's influence could prove to be of a major and lasting kind.

While the law of England is substantially based either on statute or on the concept of precedent mitigated by the application of equity, the law of Scotland is, to a large extent, founded on general principles applied with a degree of common sense. In England the

law tends to be very specific, for instance in the strict statutory definition of particular crimes. In Scotland the genus of crime is more generally defined and its application based on the individual circumstances of the trial.

In general, therefore, the Scottish system looks more to principle than precedent and as a result obviates the need for a separate concept of equity to ensure balanced justice. Both as an advocate and as a judge James Mackay has proved himself a champion of the common-sense approach to law in the Scottish tradition, in a way which finds echoes in the judicial life of Lord Denning in England. It may well be that where Lord Denning was often regarded as the exception, the new Lord Chancellor over a period of time will seek to make that approach more of the rule.

His position will allow him gently to bring influence to bear. His relationship with the English judiciary will give him the chance to exercise his undoubted powers of persuasion. His continuing role within the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords will permit him to see principles increasingly applied in the law across the United Kingdom as a whole.

He has the breadth of experience, political and legal, to be a bridge-builder. He has the vision and determination to be a constructive reformer. Above all, he has the unfailing courtesy to win friends and supporters on both sides of the border in the process.

The author is an advocate and former Scottish Office minister.

Digby Anderson

## The reluctant reactionaries

Last week saw the launch of the C.S. Lewis Centre for the study of religion and modernity. Backed by distinguished Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant theologians and dignitaries, it aims to publish studies committed to "trinitarian orthodoxy" and to "fight" modernism and secularism and hold to what C.S. Lewis called "the main road".

At a time when there is evidence of a renewed interest in values and matters moral, the centre's agenda is of potential interest to an audience far wider than practising Christians. If Thatcherism has made a freer and, for many, a richer Britain and promises less state welfare, it makes it appropriate for people to think of the use to which they put their freedom and wealth and their own direct obligations to those in need. It is also clear that a society less ordered by political control must seek its order in shared values articulated and transmitted through the family, the neighbourhood, the church and other institutions between the individual and the state, if it is to avoid chaos, crime and despair.

The centre is manifestly a reaction against moral and theological relativism but it also exemplifies a problem for those of us who are reactionary. It does not describe itself as reactionary: indeed it goes to pains to disavow "nostalgia" for the past, claims a "middle road" and, far from running away from modernity, stresses the importance of confronting it in the light of the spirit rather than the letter of traditional truths and values. Of course, I did not mean it was nothing but reactionary and I certainly did not mean that it was right-wing, whatever that is. But, simply, what was for C.S. Lewis the main road is now, relative to the current climate on beliefs and values, and especially the fudged remarks of many of the leaders of the established church on any question except politics, downright reactionary. And the centre admits as much in saying that modernity poses particularly grave problems.

Why are so many of those who consider that the past did better on some things so edgy about the reactionary component in their thinking being labelled as such? It's partly because of the widespread modern superstition that progress is linear, ubiquitous and remorseless, what Lewis himself called chronological snobbery; partly because of the company one would be seen to be keeping with certain notorious reactionaries; but, I suspect, mostly because no sooner does one identify one's recommendations with a time rather than an idea than one's opponents throw in one's face all the other nasty things which occurred at that time: "So you approve of Victorian patriotism, do you? And I suppose you want to reintroduce child labour as well?" As socialists have found,

it's much easier to present recommendations as new and untried; then there is no empirical evidence with which to attack them.

The opponents, in fact, are right to argue in this fashion. Certain things — though not patriotism and infant chimney sweeps — do go together. You can't just pick and choose from the past. Thus the centre sets limits, albeit generous, on what it considers proper Christianity (trinitarian) and presumably proper morality. These sorts of absolute, if generous, standards go with certain other things. Defining what is right involves defining what is wrong. Defining who is in excludes others who do not meet the definition. Approving this behaviour means disapproving that, and though it does not mean disapproving the person who does that, and though individuals surely are compassionate to those who fail standards, absolute standards tend to lead to the stigmatising and even punishment of whole classes of person. With stigma goes secrecy and with secrecy black-mail. With orthodoxy goes heresy.

Now it is precisely the contention of modernity that these associates of absolute standards are unmitigated and unnecessary evils which belong in the past and that a progressive society can be constructed without judging, condemning, stigmatising, excluding and punishing. Serious critics of modernity make this contention the focus of their criticism. They either see the "evils" as the regrettable price to be paid for values or even embrace them as the cement of a fallen society. Either way, by agreeing to the label reactionary, they bring into the open this, the central battlefield. To seek to secure the label reactionary, even as applied to one's component of what one says, is to conceal or confuse the most interesting contest of all.

If society is to move away from the do-it-yourself morality and a philosophy of life which, in the Bishop of London's words, acknowledges no authority outside the individual and his "fulfilment" to one where there are negotiable beliefs and values outside him, albeit only in voluntary associations such as a church, then with such beliefs and values will come — no, let's not equivocate — will come back certain things currently seen as unpleasant. When the next General Synod discusses whether to take a firm and clear stand on homosexual acts, this is the pivot of the argument. If it takes such a stand, it will discriminate against homosexuals and make stigma, secrecy and blackmail more likely. That may be bad. It may be unfortunate. But what is it not? It is optimum. With clear stands comes discrimination. Sometimes there is no middle road.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

however... Pearson Phillips

## A hair-raising experiment

Looking back, I don't know what made me do it. Was it because I was on an old sailing boat? Were the vibrations from salty old Flayers Navy Cut characters coming out of the oak timbers? It wasn't very long ago but it was a decision which has changed my whole view of life.

To be more specific, it has changed my view of that bit of life I see when I look in the mirror. It used to be Gregory Peck. Now it's Ernest Hemingway. At least, I think it's Ernest Hemingway. My barber tells me that's the effect he is after, and I'm not going to argue. It's my first beard. Having one of my own has made me look around and see that they are sprouting everywhere. I'm sorry to have to break the news to the after-shave industry, but there's a definite rush of hair to the face. Curious. Shaving has never been easier yet fewer people seem to be doing it. I suspect we are heading towards a return to Victorian facial values. In the public mind, beard is no longer automatically linked to weird.

It is tempting to wander down lush avenues of sexual speculation. Is it because growing a beard is one thing, about the only thing, that women can't do? I certainly got a strange satisfaction out of causing confusion in that moment of modern mores, a Unisex barber's shop, by asking for a beard trim. Are we seeing the first signs of gender disengagement, the male equivalent of the renaissance of the mini-skirt?

Shaving, my local anthropologist informs me, is acknowledged in tribal circles throughout the world as "an appeasement display". Shaving is a way of appearing unthreatening to women. This is an appalling revelation. Was that what I was doing, finching with blunt blades when the hot water had failed? It grieves me most to remember those grim years before stainless steel blades or the disposable razor, all that stropping and experimenting with yet more complex shaving inventions, most of which ended up congealed with dried soap and rust in the cupboard beside the bathroom basin. Was it all in the cause of appearing unthreatening to women? It never did me any good. The time had come to see what a beard would do.

misapprehensions. I thought all you had to do was stand back and let it grow. But it's important to make some planning decisions. You can no more trust a beard to behave itself than you can abandon a lawn or leave a hedge to its own devices. There are, for example, two small parts on each side of the lower chin where the ground seems to be more fertile and from which the hair sprouts at a far speedier rate than from neighbouring portions. I have seen some unfortunate walking around who have let these bits get out of control. They look like Trollian arch-deacons.

Just in time for the new hair wave, modern technology has produced an electric beard trimmer, which, like a lawnmower, has an adjustable spacer arrangement which allows beards to be cut to an even length. I am modelling mine on the short rough on the seventeenth at Wentworth.

Things have changed, of course, since the last bearded era. It should no longer be necessary for anyone to go as far as W.G. Grace, whose beard helped him to maintain his authority against a succession of four wives; or poor, timid Mr Edward Lear, whose married growth protected him from succumbing to any.

We shall need some new names and styles, more fitting to contemporary life. The Imperial is hardly appropriate; nor is the Van Dyck or the Dumfries. We shall have the Anderson at one extreme and the unkempt Billy Connolly at the other. I can see Peter Halls catching on among the theatrical set; sparse, economical Richard Bransons for the young tycoon.

And how are you getting on with it, people ask. I confess to them that there have been some problems. You have to be careful when eating corn on the cob in public. In fact I would definitely recommend people with beards to eat corn on the cob in private.

Yes, yes. But what about, you know, the effect on the women? Pretty satisfactory, actually. A general unconditional surrender. Quite a lot of them have stroked it. A few say they are specially keen on the distinguished looking grey bits. And the tough one, the one it's all about, took one look at it and said: "For God's sake, shave off that stupid beard."

Excellent. It must be working.





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## AVOIDING RECESSION

Stock markets have crashed so fast that governments must turn a series of mental somersaults to keep up. In Britain, the first task was to assure everyone that the economy was sound, that share price falls had been imported from the United States, that the panic was irrational. It soon became clear, however, that the markets were not suffering from an immediately reversible aberration. So the second phase was discreet help for the markets - small cuts in interest rates. This alone required swift gymnastics in the Treasury, which had until then been used to market fears that the economy was overheating. The speed and unanimity with which finance ministers changed their stance is itself encouraging.

Just one week after the crash, a third phase has been reached. The fall has become so severe that it could, in the manner of an oil price shock, cut growth in the world economy and therefore damage Britain's economic prospects. Mr Lawson, like his counterparts around the world, has a new priority: to limit the damage.

If their minds can keep up, politicians must still tread the line between an appearance of complacency or panic. This was evident yesterday in the Commons exchanges on the Government's sale of BP shares. Mr Lawson has so far coped well, combining confidence in the robustness of the British economy - exemplified by yesterday's survey results from the CBI - with readiness for international action and an awareness that domestic measures may be necessary to ride "the stormier period we may be in".

The coincidence of the Government's biggest share sale with the market collapse has cast the decision to go ahead or cancel as a touchstone of the Government's reaction to events. That is probably false casting. The issue is too party political, not least in terms of confidence in the Government's reputation for consistency and determination, to be viewed strictly in terms of economic management. If the sale does go ahead, however, the Bank of England should minimize whatever further damage is done to stock market confidence

both in London and New York by underwriting losses and the drain of funds.

The real leadership test will be whether governments give international cooperation priority over their domestic preoccupations. Central banks must stand behind financial institutions by guaranteeing their solvency. This is hardly in doubt in London. It is more an issue in New York and in Hong Kong, where the leading banks have made a good start.

Monetary authorities then need to switch their tactics to address deflation, brought by a loss of creditworthiness. The key lies in Bonn, as Mr Lawson has noted. The signs are good, but a cautious Bundesbank, like other central banks, will have to keep its nerve as the flight into cash temporarily swells the money supply figures.

If banks are supported and money is supplied when necessary, stock market collapses will not lead to economic collapse as they did after 1929. But more systematic co-operation to maintain stable exchange rates and avoid competition in interest rates will be needed to remove the threat of a recession on the scale of those following the oil shocks.

That will only be feasible if distortions in the American economy are eased and the protectionist tide stopped. Here the onus is on President Reagan and the US Congress to put aside fixed ideas and electoral preoccupations. So far there have only been fine words. A sensible compromise is possible. The President should abandon his refusal to raise taxes to bring next year's Budget deficit within its target. The Congress should abandon its malign agenda of protection.

That is not something on which Europeans can rely. The United States itself, followed by the Far Eastern economies, would be hardest hit by political failure. Germany, Britain the rest of the EEC have less distorted economies, less closely integrated with the fate of financial markets. Like Japan, they have also learnt lessons from having to cope with the dollar's rise and fall. That is a good reason for Mr Lawson to adapt but not abandon his policies.

## SUB-CONTINENTAL DEMOCRACY

The political arrests in Bangladesh this week are a reminder of how poorly democracy has fared in the Indian sub-continent. A worried General-turned-President, resentful of the opposition's ability to bring out supporters, arrests its leadership. Yet, he calls himself a democrat and Bangladesh a democracy.

Much the same is the case at the other end of the sub-continent, in Pakistan. Only a carefully scrutinised selection of hapless politicians is allowed to share power with the military. Neither Bangladesh nor Pakistan are democracies as the term is understood by those countries which are. In the sub-continent only India can lay claim to that title.

There, despite its many faults and serious lapses - the emergency declared by Mrs Gandhi in 1975 being the worst - the democratic system bequeathed by the Raj has survived. Nationally and regionally, elections are held regularly. The ruling parties often lose, but the verdict has always been obeyed. Most importantly, the power of the vote has sunk into popular consciousness. Even if he cannot read or write, or is burdened by generations of rural poverty, the Indian peasant knows that he can make or break the Government. The Government knows it too. That is the essence of democracy.

But why in India and not in Pakistan and Bangladesh? After all, the three states underwent the same colonial experience and share close ties of history, geography, culture and kinship. Perhaps the answers lie in the small accidents no one could have foreseen.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founder, died within 13 months of its creation. His domination of pre-independence Muslim politics and his determination to secure a separate Muslim state had been sufficient to force partition. But his absence thereafter left a great gap. The semi-feudal provinces which formed Pakistan (and at the time included Bangladesh) lacked any other leader of stature to nurture the difficult discipline of democracy. Politicians were simply too nervous of being dislodged from their precarious perches.

## BETTER THAN A HOTEL

Westminster City Council appears ready to retreat from its sensible plan to house homeless families in prefabricated homes in the outer London suburb of Barking. It should not.

Like every other inner London borough, Westminster is compelled by law to spend large amounts of ratepayers' money to keep homeless families in hotel rooms. Some 250 families are at present supported by Westminster Council in this way, at an annual cost of £10,000 per family.

This is unsatisfactory in every way. The families live in unpleasant, often dirty conditions. Greedy and unscrupulous landlords make vast profits. There is no incentive for those landlords to improve the accommodation because they are being subsidised by the State. So less well-off tourists cannot find good, moderately priced hotel rooms because hotels are often full of homeless families. Nor can people from regions of high unemployment, visiting London for a few days to look for work.

Westminster Council decided it would be more sensible to house some families in temporary prefabricated homes. These do not at all resemble the "prefabs" put up at the end of the last war; today's prefabricated home is much better appointed - more like a holiday bungalow. It needs scarcely any assembling. The council's only major task would be to install electricity and roads.

Since land in Westminster is not available, the council approached various institutions who might have land not currently in use and which could be cheaply leased. The Central Electricity Generating Board came up with a site in Barking, which Westminster planned to

lease for five years. The intention was to install 45 prefabricated houses, at an overall cost of £1.4 million, or £20,000 per house - far cheaper, over a five-year period, than putting up families in hotels.

Westminster's decision resulted in an immediate campaign of protest by Barking Council, controlled by Labour. Barking claims that Westminster is trying to offload its problems, as well as to export potential Labour voters in order to strengthen the hold of the Conservatives on Westminster Council. Protesting that Barking services are stretched to the limit, it now intends to refuse planning permission.

Barking's excuse has been received with irritation by Westminster Council. It is common practice for London boroughs to go outside their own boundaries in sheltering the homeless. Westminster's own hotels, for example, are host to 2,000 homeless families sent from other London boroughs. But the council has been sufficiently stung by the criticism to admit defeat.

On the contrary, if Barking Council does indeed refuse planning permission, Westminster should appeal to the Department of the Environment. The Government should insist that other London boroughs follow Westminster's example. In time, the Government will have to decide a long-term policy to house London's urban poor. Until then, it would be better by far to house homeless families in decent, if temporary, conditions than to condemn them, at vast expense, to an insalubrious life in seedy hotels in the inner city.

## Loosening up Sunday for sport

From the Secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation and others

Sir, Though clearly anachronistic and restrictive, the requirements of the Sunday Observance Act of 1780 continue to exert a limp yet significant grip on British sporting activity.

Sunday sport is a reality. For many millions of people in Britain Sunday is the family day for the enjoyment of leisure time. A whole variety of British sports events, including the men's singles final at Wimbledon, the Sunday Cricket League, the final round of the Open Golf Championship, and the British Grand Prix, now take place on Sunday.

It is unfortunate, however, that the administrators and officials responsible for arranging Sunday sports events on an entrance-paid basis are forced to do so by means of subterfuge and contrived practices. The admirable Sunday Sports Bill, introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Wyatt, has the full support of those governing bodies of sport which wish to promote their activities in a legal and responsible manner.

With the wholehearted support of the House of Lords and the good will of the House of Commons, Sunday can and should be established as a legitimate and legally-acceptable occasion for the enjoyment of all forms of sporting activity.

We, the officers responsible for so much amateur and professional sport on a year-round basis, believe that spiritual and physical recreation are not mutually exclusive and we hope that the opportunity presented by the Bills of Lord Wyatt and Nicholas Soames with the support of Denis Howell will be grasped by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

PETER LAWSON (General Secretary, The Central Council of Physical Recreation),

HARRY BOOTH (President, Amateur Swimming Association),

NEVILLE GOSS (Chairman, Auto-Cycle Union),

GRAHAM AXFORD (Chairman, Badminton Association of England),

ALAN SMITH (Secretary, The Cricket Council),

BERT MILLICHIP (Chairman, The Football Association),

F. J. UNDERHILL (Secretary, British Greyhound Racing Board),

CHRISTOPHER FOSTER (Secretary, The Jockey Club),

GEOFF BROWN (President, Lawn Tennis Association),

JOHN CAMERON HAYES (Chief Executive, The Racecourse Association),

PETER HAMMOND (Chief Executive, RAC Motor Sports Association),

BOB ASHBY (Chairman, Rugby Football League),

JOHN BURGESS (President, Rugby Football Union),

MICHAEL LIMB (Chairman, Speedway Control Board),

The Central Council of Physical Recreation, Francis House, Francis Street, SW1, October 27.

From the Director of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign

Sir, May I articulate our concerns about the Sunday Sports Bill, sponsored by Lord Wyatt of Weeford, which will reach the House of Lords committee stage on November 5. The Bill covers all professional sport. The major new Sunday sport is likely to be horse racing and, perhaps, in time, football.

There are no safeguards in the Bill for those employed at sports "tracks" on Sunday, nor for the many employed in supporting services such as transport and the police. Major environmental disruption is in prospect for those living near sports tracks and complexes. Ask residents close to White Hart Lane!

The Bill allows residents no say in whether and when facilities are allowed to open. There is no protection for those working in on-course or off-course betting facilities, which we believe will affect close to 40,000 families. In Ireland they have Sunday racing without opening betting shops.

Finally, the Bill shows no concern for players and jockeys. Many already show signs of extreme pressure and fatigue. They, too, have a right to family life. With evidence of fixture-clogging and congestion in many sports, is the public good really being served by more Sunday sport?

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SHLUTER, Director, Keep Sunday Special Campaign, 3 Hopes Street, Cambridge, October 27.

## Paying for Trident

From Mr James A. A. McCoy

Sir, Sir James Eberle's analysis of the factors currently generating the debate over the ownership of the Trident missiles (article, October 23) is both accurate and clear. In particular, he has cogently expressed the step-change - downwards - in technical independence represented by the decision that the missiles should be serviced in the USA rather than in Britain.

However, in his concluding analogy, Sir James's argument falls wide of the mark. It is, of course, quite unnecessary to know the arrangements through which one's neighbour's car is financed (provided one is reasonably sure his insurance is paid-up). But surely it represents the height of incompetence and irresponsibility to be unaware of the financial provenance of one's own transport? And Trident, after all, is supposed to be ours - not our neighbour's.

Yours etc, JAMES A. A. MCCOY, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, 23 Tavistock Street, WC2, October 26.

## Sauce for the goose

From Mr Michael Reilly

Sir, The letter (October 12) from Mr D. Cleaton, Secretary, HM Treasury Branch, The Institution of Professional Civil Servants, will be read with very sympathy by members of other, but similarly-placed groups. The pay and pensions of those who have served in the National Health Service have been subjected to the same "cruel persecution".

To take one instance only: those doctors who had worked in the NHS since its inception in 1948 were promised that war service between 1939 and 1945 would count towards their pension on retirement. Each year spent as a medical officer in the Armed Services would add a "notional" six months to years subsequently spent in the NHS.

There are few now left who fulfil these conditions, so they form a politically negligible group. Many of them, just after the war, especially those married and with families, found that if they wished to continue to study in their spare time to obtain higher specialist qualifications, the pursuit of which had been interrupted by hostilities, the fees for courses and examinations were more than they

could afford on the salary provided by the NHS.

There were no grants then. They opted to have their compulsory superannuation contributions returned for the first few months or year of their service in order to finance their studies, at no cost to the State. When they could afford it they asked if they could pay back their contributions. They were told that this was not allowed.

A doctor with six years of war service who worked for the NHS from 1948, but was only able to contribute regularly towards superannuation from 1949, found on retirement that not only had he lost a year of pensionable NHS service - that could be understood, as he had been prevented from paying towards it - but all his war years as well. Technically there had been a lapse of continuity of service. Presumably the years 1945-1948 were in limbo.

Representations by individuals and by the BMA were turned down. It is understood that the interpretation of the relevant regulations lay with the Civil Servants at HM Treasury. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL REILLY, Magnolia Cottage, Harrowbeer Lane, Yelverton, Devon.

## Alarms for elderly

From the Chairman of the Care Trust Ltd

Sir, Many elderly and handicapped people and those caring for them will be grateful to Lady Salmon (October 14) for drawing attention to one potentially serious effect of the proposed changes in the housing-benefit regulations. May I add another reason to those put forward by her in urging HM Government to think again?

There are many cases where hospitals are willing to discharge patients for short or long-term convalescence provided they can have electronic alarms in their homes. Obviously, most of these cases arise where patients' homes are in dispersed housing, yet housing-benefit cover will now be denied them. Without the facility, hospitals will delay discharge (I know of many cases where this condition has been made).

One of the great advantages of the modern type of electronic alarm is its flexibility: it can be installed and removed with relative ease. It is surprising that the Government does not take an opposite view and seek to encourage the development of a cheap but effective tool that could help to forward its plans for care in the community.

The annual cost of such a service for one person is less than the cost of a few days in a hospital bed.

Yours faithfully, H. A. SHAW, Chairman, The Care Trust Ltd, Care House, Bigland Street, E1, October 15.

## Stoppard case

From the Principal of Milestone Tutorial College

Sir, The report in today's edition (October 22) of the award made at the Central Criminal Court to Barnaby Stoppard, a former student at this college, may have given the impression that Barnaby was the victim of bullying at school.

None of the three aggressors was a student here, although one had been. Barnaby brought the problem to my attention within a fortnight of its starting. The local police were brought in immediately and the three aggressors were arrested within three days on the occasion of their next "visit" to the college.

Yours etc, RICHARD SMART, Principal, Milestone Tutorial College, 85 Cromwell Road, South Kensington, SW7, October 22.

## Going to root of tree problems

From the Director of Research of the Forestry Commission

Sir, Professor Stearn (October 18) calls for work to investigate the trees damaged by the recent gale. We endorse this view and have already started work.

A survey our pathologists made of root systems of trees blown down by the January 1, 1976, gale across the Midlands showed that 57 per cent of trees and decay present in their roots. Our current survey includes trees which at first sight appear not to have decayed roots.

Detailed information is being gathered about trees growing on a range of soil types in urban and rural situations, in parks, in streets and in hedges. It is hoped that from the data collected we will be able to make more positive recommendations for management of landscape trees.

Observations already to hand confirm Professor Stearn's observations that hard surfaces, kerbs and service trenches materially influence the development of a root system.

A free pamphlet is available from the commission containing advice to owners of trees damaged or uprooted by the gale.

Yours faithfully, A. J. GRAYSON, Director of Research, Forestry Commission, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, October 23.

From Mr Charles Bazlinton

Sir, In order to ensure that some personal injury and property damage from falling trees is avoided in the future (Mr D. R. Huntingford, October 23), I suggest that it

## Curb on culture

From Professor Emeritus A. Nove

Sir, As you know, Glasgow was selected as Culture City of Europe for the year 1990. You may also be aware that the city is to receive no financial support for this from Ggovernments sources, in striking contrast to the behaviour of (conservative but more cultured) governments of France and Germany in similar circumstances.

The city lacks an adequate concert hall and so the council decided to have one built in time for 1990. Plans were ready. But no: the Government has forbidden the city to borrow the necessary sum.

This philistine obstructionism due to blind adherence to public-sector borrowing requirement targets, or is it just petty spite motivated by the fact that Glasgow citizens did not vote Conservative? What of the commitment to inner-city renewal? Yours truly, ALEC NOVE, 55 Hamilton Drive, Glasgow.

## Fishy story

From Mr Michael Waller

Sir, Your fourth leader of October 17 could, we think, have been better researched and must by now have attracted a veritable bombardment from exoskeletons. A pike taken from Lough Conn weighed a mere 53lb, but this was after an 11lb salmon was removed from its stomach. A pike of 6ft in length could be in the 80lb class. We once picked up a pike of 44lb with a 2½ pounder half-way down its gullet.

Both had died in the attempt but the proportions suggest the possibility of a 40lb feed for an 80 pounder. Smith (*Fishes of the British Isles*, J. Travis Jenkins, London, 1925) relates how a pike of 8lb took on a salmon of about the same size and swallowed it as it was progressively digested over a period of three days.

At this school we open trout daily as part of a monitoring of feeding patterns and often a small number of recently-taken food is still alive.

You might, however, have pointed out that the teeth of a pike incline inwards and many are hinged. This facilitates the passage of large objects but makes it very difficult to remove anything by the same entrance. Nothing short of a Caesarean would have released the dog in time.

The nets, which were probably being used for salmon or sturgeon, could have been gill nets and could trap a pike.

In this time of glasnost and Loch Ness monsters, I think we should be prepared to give the Russians the benefit of the doubt. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL WALLER, School of Casting, Salmon & Trout Fishing, Pontoon Bridge Hotel, Foxford, Co Mayo, Republic of Ireland, October 18.

## Word of honour

From Mr H. M. Croome

Sir, Some years ago I was defending a Chinese in the Old Street magistrates' court. When asked to take the oath (letter, October 21) the defendant asked for a saucer, declaring it was essential. A saucer from the police canteen was produced.

Holding the saucer aloft my client said: "May my soul be broken if this saucer is broken if I do not tell the truth." Then he hurled the saucer to the ground. It bounced with a ringing note and hurtled across the court room quite undamaged.

Yours faithfully, H. M. CROOME, Borough Hill, Thaxted, Essex, October 22.

should not be permitted to place a tree preservation order on any tree which could fall on a public right of way or on a dwelling. Yours faithfully, CHARLES BAZLINTON, Trees, The Avenue, Alresford, Hampshire, October 23.

From Mr J. R. Miller

Sir, Mr Ridley's enthusiasm in helping to dispose of fallen trees is commendable (photograph, October 24). One cannot, however, say the same of his dress for the occasion; surely, the Secretary of State for the Environment should set a better example when operating such a potentially lethal piece of equipment as a chain saw?

In addition to ear protectors, Mr Ridley should have worn a hard hat and visor and also padded overall. Perhaps Mr Ridley's employer should be charged under the Health and Safety at Work Act...

Yours, J. R. MILLER, 8 Mellerstain, Gordon, Berwickshire.

## ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 28 1794

Frederick Duke of York (1763-1827), second son of George III, commanded the British troops in an unsuccessful campaign in the Low Countries. He was no match for the revolutionary fervour of the French; his military prowess was decided in the dagger, the grand old Duke of York...

## LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

MONDAY, OCT. 27

WHITEHALL, Oct. 26, 1794.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, was this day received from his Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

Head-quarters, Nineweg, Oct. 24, 1794.

SIR,

Yesterday morning the enemy attacked the whole of the advanced posts of my right wing, in great force, particularly that of Drutwin, which was defended by the 37th Regiment, and that of Applethorn, where the Prince of Rohan's Light Battalion was posted. Nothing could exceed the gallantry with which the whole of the troops on the advanced posts (particularly those two corps), behaved; but at last the post on the left of the 37th Regiment, which was occupied by a detachment of Rohan Hussars, having been forced, Major Hope, who commanded the 37th, and who distinguished himself exceedingly, was obliged to retreat upon the dyke along the Wall, where he continued for some time, without being much annoyed by the enemy. Unfortunately, however, a strong body of the enemy's muzzes being mistaken for the corps of Rohan, the regiment allowed them to come upon them unmolested, when the Hussars immediately attacked; and the narrowness of the dyke, which on every other occasion must have afforded a security to the infantry, in this instance acted against them, as they were driven off it by the enemy's charge, and I am sorry to say, have suffered very considerably.

As they were upon the advanced posts, I have not as yet received an exact return of their loss, but I understand that Captains Baird, Hendley and Duff, Lieutenants Mitchell, Thompson, Colquhoun and Murray, with the Quarter-Master Mr. Dussall, were made prisoners; of which number Captain Duff, Lieutenants Mitchell and Colquhoun, are wounded. All the prisoners who were taken agreed in the intelligence that the enemy had brought over Thirty Thousand Men; and at the same time I received the report that a very considerable body of them, having passed the Menne between Burnmoor and Vaul, were advancing upon my left flank, and had already taken possession of Cleves.

Under these circumstances, (never having intended to risk an Action in my present position) which I only kept in order to preserve a communication with Grave, and to cover the reparations which were intended to have been made to the fortifications of this place, I determined to pass the Wall, and to take up the different encampments, which were already marked out for the defence of the river, leaving General Walmoden, with a corps, to cover the town.

Part of the troops began their march yesterday evening, and the remainder this morning, without any molestation from the enemy.

I am, &c.

FREDERICK.

P.S. I am sorry to add, that Lieut. Wadman, of the Light Infantry of the 37th Regiment, who was upon picket, and had distinguished himself by his intrepidity and prudence, is also dangerously wounded, and was brought in the evening to this town. Right Hon. H. Dundas, &c. &c. &c.
















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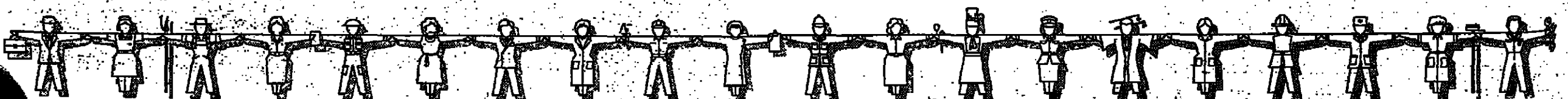
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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

# Goodbye flower power

Can country style survive without Laura Ashley's busy prints? Will the empire's new no-frills clothes thrill the faithful? Victoria McKee reports

Recently the message from Laura Ashley has been that life is not a bed of roses. You may have seen their advertising campaign: "Where have all the flowers gone?"

"Those itchy-bitsy flower prints have all but disappeared; it's been not a revolution but an evolution," John James, group managing director of Laura Ashley Holdings, explains. "This campaign is merely to bring reality and expectation together."

When Laura Ashley died after a fall in 1985, many expected the empire founded on her kitchen table to lose its way without her guiding spirit. But the international company, with over 7,500 employees worldwide, knew that Laura Ashley's fresh country essence had long since been distilled into a corporate entity that could bowl along merrily on its own momentum.

Any shockwaves after Laura Ashley's untimely death were personal, not professional, James maintains. "Bernard always ran the business anyway, whatever people on the outside thought. We all know that. He was the leader all along — and he's the one we always looked to."

Bernard is Laura's husband, Sir Bernard Ashley, chairman of the group, which confidently predicts a turnover of £220 million for the year ending next January — or approximate pre-tax profits of £26 million.

"It was to Laura's credit that she had already trained design teams to take over her function — that was the strength of what Bernard and Laura created: a team of people that could take the inspiration of a single flower and turn it into wonderful,

workable prints," James enthuses.

The company tries to be true to its late founder's wishes even down to the wholesome, home-made casseroles employees eat off pretty china on laminated chintz tablecloths for about 30p a plateful. Laura was adamant that all her staff should have healthy food at subsidized prices — and fried food still remains strictly forbidden.

John James has been a stalwart of the company for 14 years and could be described as a bluff, likeable Welshman with an easy-going manner. It is not that he so actively discourages the cult of the personality and would prefer not to be described at all.

If this seems an odd policy for a company very much founded on a personality, it is nevertheless rigidly adhered to at all levels. Laura's son, Nick Ashley, who has taken up his mother's mantle and wears the title of creative director, refuses interviews and photographs on this ground. But he does not mind immortalizing his mischievous Welsh terrier Clem, the terror of the Fulham design centre, in a series of children's books. Ashley books, on sale in their own shops as well as booksellers, are a very visible part of the empire.

Tomorrow both the *Laura Ashley Bedrooms* book and *Laura Ashley Style* will be published. The latter, a lavishly illustrated hardback, demonstrates how Ashley style has evolved from its inspiration in past traditions and has been prefigured to become a runaway best-seller for Christmas in the United States, which claims 40 per cent of Laura Ashley's world market.

In Britain, Laura Ashley



Curtain raiser John James: "The itchy-bitsy flower prints have all but disappeared; it's been not a revolution but an evolution"

still has a comfortable High Street feel, and its fashions are primarily popular with Sloanes, young and old, and museli-belt mothers, but abroad it is considered expensive, exotic — the epitome of British style.

Ask French women what British fashion means to them, and nine out of 10 will say "Laura Ashley!" France is already a firm fan with concessions in most of the major department stores. In Japan, Laura Ashley opened a shop in the Ginza, a nightclub area somewhat like Soho, last year and invested 50-50 in it with Jusco — Japan United Stores. It proved such a success that there are now five shops in Japan with 30 the goal in the next two years. Spain is the next target.

The company's aggressive new policy is light years away from its beginnings, cosily recalled in *Laura Ashley Style*,

which tells how, in 1953, with an initial investment of £10, "while Bernard Ashley went off to work in the City, his young wife Laura snatched time from looking after her children to produce tablemats and headscarves on a crude and laborious silk screen machine, with the aim of selling them to local shops and department stores."

Now Laura Ashley snaps up small, quality businesses linked in some thematic way to its Victorian floral perfumers, was the first to fail this month, for £1 million. The next day the US branch of the company announced the acquisition for \$3 million of the American Preppie fashion stalwart Willis & Geiger, who made hunting gear for Teddy Roosevelt and flying kit for Amelia Earhart.

"We will develop these businesses separately," James stressed. "We believe in organic growth, building brick on brick, if you like — not just plastering our wallpaper over everything."

To exploit the lucrative American "grandmother's market," the Mother & Child concept — branch of the oldest Ashley son, David — was born. "We noticed a gap in the market," James says. "We wanted to do pretty dresses and party clothes that would tempt dotting grandparents." The first Mother & Child designs will be test-marketed in the British shops in the spring.

The main objective in Britain is to capture that vital younger female customer — "21 or aspiring to be 21," as Amanda Carr, deputy merchandise manager (UK) calls her. "We are aware that we are

the sort of shop girls tend to come in with their mothers," she admits. "But we are updating our whole collection to appeal to a younger, more fashion conscious woman."

An inspirational sketch in Amanda's workroom at the firm's retail headquarters in Maidenhead, Berkshire, shows a mini-skirted model striding out, hands in the pockets of her minimal, shoulder-padded, plain-wool gabardine suit. Nothing flowery about her, and you'd certainly never spot her as a Laura Ashley dresser.

"Our skirts won't ever be quite that short," Amanda qualifies, adding proudly, "but, yes, we are getting into power dressing at last!"

Just when the rest of the world (judging from the recent fashion shows) has moved on to chintzy florals.

## Big hearts of the Big Bang

How an enterprising group of women persuaded the City to provide cash for shares and give the profits to charity

After showing the world in quick succession two of its less acceptable faces — greed and fear — the City tomorrow will unveil a third, more caring, charitable face.

The chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison, will announce the result of the Holborn Great Investment Race. Every penny of the huge profits made (fortunately it ended before the crash) will be handed over to three women who run Charity Projects, which thought up the idea.

"We are different because we don't ask people to give us money but to make us money — by doing what they are good at," explained Jane Tewson, who was aged only 25 when she had the idea for the organization three years ago.

All the same, it took a fair bit of nerve for her fellow director, Fiona Halton, to go into the City and look for a sponsor who would put up the stakes for the race. After some anxious weeks of searching, Prudential Holborn Unit Trusts invited her to a meeting over breakfast. By the end of it, their managers had offered to put up £210,000 as an interest-free loan, to be divided among six teams of investment managers from well known City houses.

Who won the race will be known tomorrow, but the stake money has raised £924,432 — a 340 per cent increase. And the investment race is only the latest in a series of good ideas.

In hard cash the takings have risen spectacularly from £121,000 in the first year to more than £2 million this year. Charity Projects works from a Soho office at 21 D'Arbury Street, London W1, but nothing, not even the cost of a paperclip, is deducted in administrative costs. Everything is sponsored.

One of Tewson's principles was that the charities should

be ones that other grant-making organizations do not reach. They are small-scale efforts dedicated to the problems of homelessness, mental and physical handicaps and drug and alcohol abuse, particularly among young people of 15 to 25, who fall outside the net of most fund raising.



The persuaders (left to right): Graham, Tewson and Halton

This is where the third member of the trio, Judy Graham, grants director of Charity Projects, comes in. She travels Britain finding, inspecting and following up applicants, who are then approved by a grants committee. One of the 50 small beneficiaries of the Great Investment Race is Centrepoint, which runs a shelter in Soho used by 2,000 homeless people aged 19 or under each year.

Tewson admits that part of her still feels a longing to be out and involved in the shelters and hostels. "As long as I can go to visit projects frequently, I love what I'm doing, although you'll sometimes find me in tears. What makes it bearable is the huge reservoir of supporters that we've got now."

Peter Lewis

## Painter working in oil

A Scottish artist is capturing the oil rigs' vanishing way of life

"People always ask, why don't I do pretty landscapes?" Instead Sue-Jane Taylor paints oil rigs and their workers and tomorrow will receive one of this year's Glenfiddich Living Scotland awards.

Her work, lining the wall of her London studio, is neither romantic nor brutal. These are portraits of weary men, working hard to make money in an unforgiving environment. "They're all people I have come to know personally. I don't think I could have such insight into them if I wasn't Scottish."

Sue-Jane, aged 26, comes from the Black Isle, a peninsula near Inverness, and witnessed the effects of the oil boom in her teens. "The affluence in the area became apparent within a year. What I remember was drinking and gambling in the village. We were against the development."

Her opinion mellowed when she went to art school in Aberdeen and realized that the jobs provided by the oil industry meant that the local workforce could stay in the Highlands. "And now I'm very sad because the oil is declining and everyone's leaving."

Her creative interest in the



Work in progress: Sue-Jane Taylor in her London studio

industry was stimulated by a trip out to a rig when the Stirling Shipping Company commissioned 12 Scottish artists to produce prints marking its role in the offshore industry, but the weather was too wild to allow transportation on to the rig itself.

Sue-Jane wrote to the oil companies asking for permission to visit their rigs so that she could assemble a body of work solely concerned with the oil industry and earlier this summer Occidental organized a four-day stay on a rig in Piper A Field.

"It's quite depressing — the men know the real excitement is over in the North Sea." She spent her time sketching and taking photographs, especially at night, wandering through the noisy, vibrating walkways.

She has given up her post at Slade, where she has been teaching print-making, so that

she can devote all her time to the project. Her award of £3,000 will help, but she is constantly looking for new sponsors. Next year she intends to visit three construction yards to provide her work with an on-shore element, and she is already planning a major touring exhibition and a book.

She is not unaware of the irony of her position — the fact that her life is now so closely involved with an industry she initially rejected and that, based in London, she has become one of those exiles whose departure she once mourned.

She grimaces slightly at this. "I think it's good to move away from your environment and see it from an outside angle and there's great stimulus in London. But I love Scotland, nothing beats it."

Fionnuala McHugh

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## BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

### Stocking stunners

Charity Christmas catalogues are still often crammed with things you probably hope not to find in your pillow-case.

The canniest charities, however, this year seem to have learned that good design when teamed with a good cause is an irresistible combination. Christmas treasures from the World Wildlife Fund catalogue (available free, telephone 04368 20551) include a traditional Noah's Ark, carved from British hardwoods (£59.95) and a giant T-shirt designed by the Emanuels (£14.95). Meanwhile, in the National Trust's catalogue (also free if you telephone 0225 705676, or from NT shops) you will find appropriately cottage-shaped boxes of fudge (£2.50), stylish spongeware china (from £7.50) and an exclusive Halcyon Days enamel NT trinket box (£52.50).



Quote Me . . .

"We fought and we marched for equality all over the United States. People died. But it was never like South Africa. It was never that bad. If the world says enough is enough, if it isolates South Africa with sanctions and whatever else it takes, apartheid will go."

Corretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King

### Running on

Joggers wary of running in the dark, for fear of attack, needn't abandon their fitness regime. The Sisters' Network can put women runners of all standards in touch with nearby "running mates".

Apart from the safety aspect — pairs of joggers are far less likely to fall victim — there's extra motivation when two people are involved. The keen should dispatch a large SAE to Reebok Running Sisters Network, 57-61 Mortimer Street, W1N 7TD.

Josephine Fairley

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## In the City

Amidst all the panic, the mayhem, the furious ups and downs of the stockmarket over the past week there remain certain areas in the City which continue to grow and flourish. The Mergers and Acquisitions Dept. of this long established US Bank, has been steadily expanding, creating promotion opportunities for all those involved. For example, the P.A. to a senior Executive has secured a non-secretarial position creating an opening for someone else to

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Continued on page 5



THE ARTS

Most of the news that's fit to print

Some newspaper editors have the ear of their heads of government, most have to content themselves with the mouth. I doubt, however, that even in this country any get, let alone give, instructions often enough to merit a telephone with Mrs Thatcher's name on it. In *Pravda* (ITV), Canada's documentary about the Soviet Union's daily echo of party policy, the Editor-in-Chief, Viktor Afanasyev, proudly showed us his labelled hot-line to Gorbachev.

We have been given a lot of what has been aptly termed "Glasnostalgia" to mark the

TELEVISION

70th anniversary of the Russian revolution. What is encouraging about such programmes as *Pravda* is that the Soviets have enough confidence in *Perestroika* to show cancer as well as healthy tissue in the body politic.

As in the West, there was much posed indifference to the pandering fly-on-the-wall cameras, but it became a fly in the ointment on trying to enter the office of the censor uninvited.

Television may not always have a new face but it does a fresh one. The main preoccupation of David Drew on the couple of brief occasions I have met him seemed to be his ageing legs and his lumbering detour as an amateur centre-half.

I could never remember exactly what he did off the field but up he popped last night with sprightly enough tread in *Footsteps* (BBC2) following the path of the pioneering explorer of Mayan Cities, Alfred Mandelst. Fresher than his legs was his youthful countenance, which made him a natural for the Doran Gray school of documentary (pioneered by David Attenborough and Julian Pettifer).

Wisely perhaps, he underplayed to camera - no salivating enthusiasts or wild hand signals, altogether a performance up front more reminiscent of "Kaiser" Franz Beckenbauer at the back rather than "Crazy Horse" Emlyn Hughes whose legs may have long gone but, alas, not his hands or tongue.

Andrew Hislop

A solo look at Napoleon

Jeremy Kingston meets comedian John Sessions, whose one-man show has moved to the West End

Funny players are rare enough. Witty ones are rarer. Rarest of all is that precious band who can set you laughing at a host of puns, jokes, take-offs and bawdy larks yet leave you feeling how good it is not to have to park your brains outside with the car.

John Sessions, for example, is author of *The Life of Napoleon* and its solo performer (though it has a cast of dozens: Laurence Olivier, Orson Welles, Frank Bruno...).

The show recently gave the Riverside Studios a welcome five week sell-out run, and yesterday the Little Emperor unrolled his map of Europe across the stage of the Albany Theatre for a six-week campaign in the West End.

We meet at a Chinese restaurant in Putney, picking our separate ways there past horizontal planes and tees-felled in the hurricane a few hours earlier. Sessions arrives first and is drinking Pilsner water.

Like Napoleon, he admits to a modest weight problem, but managed to keep in trim at the Riverside by dashing about the map, from birth in Corsica (mothered by Peggy Mount), this way and that across Europe, down to the Pyramids, up to Moscow to look for the Tsar.

His month off since then has been like mooching about on Elba. The analogy can stop there since Napoleon Part 2 came to an abrupt end at Waterloo (Wellington: Edward Fox; Lord Uxbridge: Terry Wogan).

To relish his show calls for no prior knowledge of gallant Lord (Uxbridge) and whether it was he who lost a leg at Waterloo (and Quatre Bras and Ligny, too). You may not always catch the relevance of the voices attached to the crowd of marshals and mothers, brothers and boats, emperors and editors (Richard Ingram in charge of a certain

London newspaper), but the choice is seldom based on mere word-play. It is even possible, just, to make a connection between Captain Casablanca's doomed vessel (the of the burning deck) and Rick's Café Americain, though no performer on this earth could have resisted so clear a cue to bring on Bogart.

"Something I want them to say feels it has to be said by Wogan or Woody or who, so they say it. I do Lofty as Napoleon's brother Joseph - or is it Joseph as Lofty? - because Joseph is a nice, well-meaning bloke who just lets himself be shoved around."

"As Ken says [Kenneth Branagh, director of the show] it's a great yarn - once upon a time there was a little boy who grew up and, and, and... but nobody would want to come to a lecture."

"Ken and I used to talk about: could it be turning too funny? Could it be turning too serious? What we eventually decided on was this oscillation between the two."

This concern to put together a structure below the larking about is the quality that gives his show its toughness and vigour.

Sessions' compulsion to lark



The man himself but John Sessions on stage becomes Frank Bruno, Peggy Mount and the Tsar of Russia

showed itself in the familiar context of school (in Bedford). "The old story," he explains. "To avoid getting your head haemorrhaged you imitate teachers and make the boys laugh."

At Bangor University he wrote and performed in sketches. In Canada (to get a Ph.D) and back in England at RADA the sketches became more elaborate. "Effects of lightning. Sets. In *Napoleon* we have all these famous paintings flashing up at the back. Not just the portraits of him, all the surrounding period,

the *Raff* of the *Medusa*, to make a point, I hope, not just because the raft was there at the time.

"There's the raft at Tilist where Napoleon met the Tsar and they both, well, fell in love with each other, I'd say. Very buddy-buddy. So then I go to Huck Finn, buddy-buddy on the Mississippi."

And who could follow Napoleon, touching so many other lives, with Queen Victoria presumably out of the running?

"Yes. I keep thinking of Nijinsky."

All that pre-First World War lot. One serious difficulty is, I can't dance a step."

The photographer arrives and leads us to the open space of Wandsworth Park, more open than before with fallen hollies cluttering the paths. "They say Nijinsky could jump and remain suspended in the air," Sessions remembers.

His expression becomes intent, considering possibilities, the sort of rapt attention Napoleon might have worn on the eve of battle. "I wouldn't mind having a go at that."

OPERA

Cinders without charm

Cendrillon Wexford Festival

Under successive festival directors Wexford has remained faithful to Massenet. *Cendrillon* this year is the sixth of his operas to be seen here and that figure includes none of the easier options like *Manon* and *Werther*.

It is slightly surprising that *Cendrillon*, or *Cinderella*, should have taken so long to surface here: by Wexford standards it is positively familiar. This is thanks mainly to a production by Brian Macdonald which began in Ottawa, was staged widely in North America then in Paris at the start of the decade.

Macdonald realized that Massenet's is the gentlest of the musical *Cinderellas*. Massenet was two-thirds through his career when he wrote it, and bewitching the ear came easily to him.

Seamus McGreener at Wexford fails to realize any of this. His production is earthbound, indecisive and at times inexperienced. The question of dream or reality is carefully left open by Massenet and his librettist Cain: does Cendrillon see a vision of her Prince, as she mopes like a lonely cricket by her hearth, and does he see a mirage of her as he is bored at the ball? Only at the very end does Cinders exclaim "*Mon rêve était donc vrai!*" and we are whisked off into a Tchaikovsky wonderland of glittering princes and princesses.

Magic is poorly realized in Tim Reed's drab sets, especially that for the enchanted forest in Act III, the strongest section of the score where Cinders and the Prince join in a lyrical duet of infatuation across a hedgehog of flowers. Or should do. McGreener misses out on the ballroom sections of the story, which were Macdonald's strength.

Musically things were a little better. Claire Primrose, despite a certain hardness in her soprano, showed a deal of charm and promise in the title role. Silvana Manga glittered as the young Fairy Godmother. Robynne Redmon seemed an odd choice for Prince Charming - *pas du tout charmant*, but rather plumply petulant and consistently employing too much volume in this small house. She made a good case for using a tenor in the part as CBS did on record. Pierre-Yves Le Maigat did not make much of the put-upon father.

Stephane Cardon got much more Massenet feel from the RTE Symphony than he did from some his singers. The chorus was weak and clumsily handled. *Cendrillon* does not look like being the hit of the festival, but Bellini's *La straniera* and Giordano's *La cenerentola* are to come.

John Higgins

A few Shanghai surprises

THEATRE

The Woman Warrior Palladium

Arriving in London at the end of a whirlwind British tour, the Shanghai Kunju Theatre troupe duplicate the impact the Peking Opera made 10 years ago. They leave you gazing in disbelief at physical skills altogether beyond the range of European performers.

The programme (incidentally, an excellent introduction to Chinese theatre, with illustrated essays on colour sym-

bolism, hand movements, and character types) draws an emphatic contrast between Shanghai and Peking - much in the Kunju's favour, as the older and richer form.

However, the difference is not apparent to the uninitiated spectator, witnessing these scenes of acrobatic combat, trickery, and comic romance.

It is encouraging to learn that China's own popular audiences much preferred spectacular extracts to the vast original epics. What we are seeing, in other words, is not just a tourist show.

The opening Palladium programme consists of three excerpts and one self-contained

piece - a delicate little comedy about a runaway girl crossing a river to meet her lover.

We never see the lover: the whole piece consists of her ordeals with a mischievous old boatman who gets her on board and then decides to go off for lunch.

The stage is bare, and the magic of Liao Gu Yin and Liu Yilong's playing lies in their pantomime evocation of the boat, wildly rocking, drifting away out of control, and then taking to the waters, at which point the comedy dissolves into lyric melancholy.

Elsewhere, we are in the company of two invincible women warriors (Wang Zhi-

quan, first getting the better of a crafty innkeeper, and then raiding the municipal treasury for ill-gotten wealth), and that arch-trickster, the Monkey King - who acquires a magic fan from his reluctant owner by transforming himself into an insect and getting her to swallow him.

Chen Tongsheng's somewhat over her head, representing this feat, is the masterstroke of a performance that brings your eyes out on stalks. Elsewhere the stage surges with bodies turned into cathecrine wheels, merging into biomorphic, and crossing the stage in hitherto undreamt-of contortions.

Irving Wardle

Studies from a musical mirror

CONCERTS

Maurizio Pollini Festival Hall

An audience of pianists and pupil musicians: it had to be Maurizio Pollini. The fact that one is so aware of an audience, of a sense of occasion, is due, of course, not only to the reputation which precedes Pollini, but to the very nature of his performance; and last night's recital was no exception.

The first half of the evening, devoted entirely to Chopin, contained few exerts and en-trances: Pollini seemed bent on sweeping his audience into the wave of energy which lifted him through to the final C sharp minor Scherzo.

The sense of compression and of impetus, even within the wonderfully accidental, unconscious quality of his two Op 62 Nocturnes, demanded that the listener be as much on his mettle as the performer. Pollini's playing creates fast bonding: the fast transformations of his *Polonaise-Fantaisie* and the *bel canto* modulation of timbre and volume of his F sharp major Barcarolle insisted on

concentration as intense as their performance.

Neither in Chopin nor in Debussy is Pollini content to draw the listener's ear first to the piano itself. There were times in the *Debussy Etudes* when, paradoxically, the medium seemed incidental, so absorbed was Pollini in grappling with their structural and harmonic complexity. The result, of course, is to deflect attention back to the keyboard again; and in Pollini's hands it acted as a mirror for the brilliant and fugitive inventions of his imagination.

"Pour les quarts" became a study in shifting velocity; "Pour les sixtes" a harmonic Rubik cube; while the studies of repeated notes and opposing sonorities created a kinetic art, translating from mind to ear through the almost involuntary involvement of the fingers.

Hilary Finch

● Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* opens at the Whitehall Theatre on November 4 (previews from tonight) with Dame Hilda Bracket and Dr Evadne Hinge playing Lady Bracknell and Miss Prism respectively. The play is directed and adapted by Lou Stein.

A Collier's Friday Night Greenwich

In giving his first play a title so boldly down to earth, not to say into the earth, D.J. Lawrence must have been cocking snooks at his time: the nicely spoken, grammatical pieces with fancy titles taken from poems.

Kenzy Miller's set pleasingly reproduces a cluster of books and cooking tools, though the wide-open Green-

wich stage could scarcely be less suitable for a play steeped in naturalistic detail and set in a small colliery house.

Son and daughter (a sparkling Claire Parker) return home from their school and college, the mother (Annette Crutcher) bakes bread, the father (Alfred Lynch) arrives grumpy from the pit to confound his feeble war against his family's contempt. Food is eaten, bread burned, wages are shared out, and in the closing scene the son assures his mother that she still has - perhaps will always have - the best part of his love.

Peter Gill's famous production of 1968 emphasized stilted mother-love and father-hatred, elements that are less to the fore in the attractive production John Dove gives us where the prevailing mood is struck by the trio of young girls, laughing and teasing the unfortunate Maggie (Claire Hackett) who is sweet on the son (Neil Dudgeon).

The production finds a lot of cheering comedy in these areas, although the cost is a risky looseness in the playing of the family drama.

Jeremy Kingston

Donald Cooper

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**Romeo and Juliet**  
Young Vic  
The tragedy of Romeo and Juliet is caused by external factors - family feud, postal delay and excruciatingly bad timing. It is essential therefore that the external dimension of the drama - the world of Verona - is credible and compelling. David Thacker's production bundles the play unceremoniously into a late twentieth-century world of designer double-breasted suits, deep coloured dravets and disco music.  
Richard Graham's Benvolio is not the usual wet liberal but a youthful version of Bob Hoskins with a morose chuckle and a nasty way of eating spaghetti.  
How can love thrive in this alienating context? At the Capulet boy Sarah-Jane Fenton's physically expressive but jittery Juliet looks to have it made with Anthony Wellington's balletic Tybalt. Why she should even notice Richard Haw's earnest, dog-like Romeo is something of a mystery.  
Most of the play's climactic moments, the balcony scene, the death of Mercutio (a disappointingly stiff John Elmes), the morning after, fall disconcertingly flat. In the last, Romeo seems to be suffering from sullen post-coital tristesse. This may be because the lovers are perched half way up Fran Thompson's steel fire-escape-cum-climbing-frame set.  
The rewards of this production are peripheral - a magnificent Capulet from Peter Theodora, both genuinely indulgent and frighteningly sadistic; and an excellent, if zany, Friar Laurence, played by Rudolph Walker as a Southern Baptist Minister with a heart of gold and a voice of molasses.  
**Harry Eyres**

**ALBERT FINNEY BOB PECK**  
**J.J. FARR**  
A NEW PLAY BY RONALD HARWOOD  
ALBERT FINNEY • BOB PECK • J.J. FARR  
A NEW PLAY BY RONALD HARWOOD  
BERNARD LLOYD • HUGH BADDICK • TREVOR PEACOCK • DUDLEY SUTTON  
DIRECTED BY RONALD EYRE  
PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY JOCELYN HERBERT • LIGHTING BY RICK FISHER  
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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E19 9XN

## THEATRE

### LONDON

**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

**★ ATONEMENT:** New Barry Collins play: the eternal triangle at the Yorkshire seaside.  
Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.10-10.15pm, £5.

**★ BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT:** Frank Finlay, Wendy Craig and others in Jeffrey Archer courtroom drama.  
Civilians Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 (01-374 1181). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mats Thurs 3.30-5.15pm and Sat 5.7-7.15pm, £5-21.50.

**★ DEATHWATCH/THE MAIDS:** Genet double bill exploring murderous longings; performed with same three actors in each.  
Lyric Theatre, King Street W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 8.10-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, mats Thurs 3.30-5.15pm and Sat 5.7-7.15pm, £5-21.50.

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**★ IT'S A GIRL:** Bush Theatre reopens after its fire with John Burrows's exhilarating all-woman musical show on pregnancy and allied matters.  
Bush Theatre: Bush Hotel, Shepherd Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388). Tube: Shepherd Bush. Preview tonight, 8pm. First night tomorrow, 7pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7pm-12.5.

**★ LETTICE AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tzack as two formidable ladies in a new Peter Shaffer comedy, directed by Michael Blakemore.  
Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-473 3657). Tube: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mats Sat 5.30-7.30pm, £10-£14.50.

**★ A LIE OF THE MIND:** Fine acting team in new Sam Shapard play exploring family tensions in the Mid West.  
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**★ THE LIFE OF NAPOLEON:** John Sessions's dazzling one-man show, with the additional voices of Oliver, Orson Welles, Frank Bruno and about 30 others. Transfer after sell-out run at Riverside.  
Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-338 3878). Tube: Leicester Square. Preview tonight, 8.10-10.30pm. First night tomorrow, 7.30-10.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.30-11pm, mats Sat 5.7-7.30pm, £5-21.50.

**★ THE SMALL POPPIES:** Three Australian children set off for their first day at school. New children's play by David Holman, author of the marvelous *No Worries* last year.  
Young Vic Theatre, 88 The Cut, SE1 (01-828 8383). Tube: Waterloo. Today, tomorrow, Fri and Sat at 2pm and 7pm. From Nov 3, Tues-Sat, 10.30am, and Mon, Tues and Sat, 2pm. Adults £2.50, children £1.50.

**★ A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE:** Michael Gambon magnificent in transfer of Alan Ayckbourn's NT production.  
Albany Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-338 3878). Tube: Chancery/Court Road. Preview tonight, Mon-Fri 7.30-9.40pm, Sat 8.10-10.40pm, mats Sat, 5.7-7.10pm. £2.50-£11. First night Nov 3, 7.30-10.40pm. From Nov 3, 2.5-14.50, £5-21.50.

**★ LONG RUNNERS:** *The Business of Murder*: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). *Starlight*: Barbican Theatre (01-473 3657). *Starlight*: Barbican Theatre (01-473 3657). *Starlight*: Barbican Theatre (01-473 3657).

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**★ LA BAMBRA (18):** Conventional biography of the Mexican-American rock legend Ritchie Valens, dead at 17. Directed by Luis Valdez (100 min).  
Cannon Fathom Road (01-370 2630). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

**★ BEYOND THERAPY (15):** Another of Robert Altman's best pieces, filmed in Paris, with Julie Hagerty, Jeff Goldblum, Glenda Jackson and Tom Conti (93 min).  
Cannon Fathom Road (01-370 2630). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

**★ BLACK WIDOW (15):** A homicidal psychopath kills several wealthy husbands and is investigated by the Justice Department, notably played by Sharon Stone (114 min).  
Cannon Fathom Road (01-370 2630). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

**★ EAT THE RICH (15):** Raunchy black comedy about a wealthy couple who are murdered by a black man (100 min).  
Cannon Fathom Road (01-370 2630). Progs 2.15, 6.10, 9.15.

**★ FULL METAL JACKET (18):** Stanley Kubrick's meticulously filmed Vietnam drama, following Matthew Modine and other recruits from basic training to combat. Vietnam may have taken the edge off some of the material, but Kubrick's clinical eye for human behaviour is still unshakable (116 min).  
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## Councils to spend £500m over top

By David Walker,  
Public Administration  
Correspondent

The Government conceded last night that councils in England are on course to spend next year at least £500 million more than Whitehall says they need.

The Government has estimated councils' spending needs at £26 billion, and their actual budgets at at least £26.5 billion.

As in previous years the councils responsible for "overspending" are identified as the London Labour-controlled authorities, and the district councils in the big cities, with such notable exceptions as Labour-controlled Birmingham and Leeds. In addition the London Fire Brigade and the fire and civil defence authorities for the metropolitan areas are spending well above their limits, despite being tightly controlled by the Home Office.

Councils which spend over the Government's limit will lose rate support grant on a sliding scale. Likely losers include Camden, Hackney, Liverpool and Manchester, all Labour-controlled and all subject to rate-capping, which will prevent them making up for lost grant by increasing their rates.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, set out details of the grant payable to each council in England, provided they spend within his guidelines. If they keep to his targets, rates should go up next April by no more than the prevailing rate of inflation, about 4 per cent, he said.

The Department of Environment's estimates of what councils will need to spend next year have been adjusted, to allow for police spending to rise from £3,021 million during 1987-88 to £3,350 million next year.

Allowances for education have been increased by just over £1 billion to take account of the teachers' pay settlement.

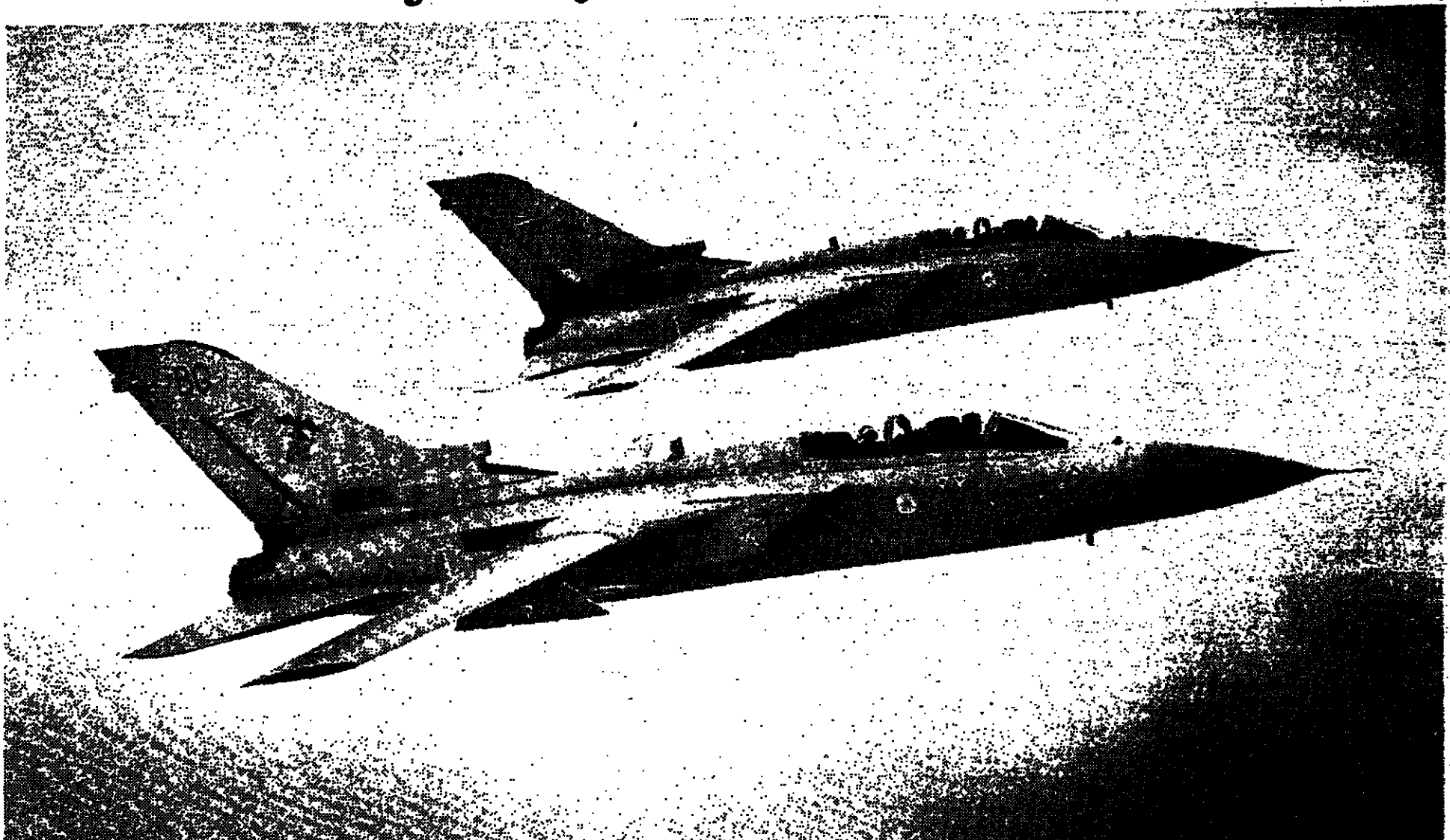
One result of the Government's adjustments may be that the county councils will be under less financial pressure next year. But district councils in the shires are likely to lose some of their grant entitlements, which could have political consequences for the Government in local government elections next May.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities which represents London boroughs and city councils said: "The Government is once again completely underestimating the amount of money councils need to provide vital services".

Mr Ridley said there was no change to the plans announced in July which kept the Government's share of council spending at 46.2 per cent (provided councils keep to the guidelines).

But the Government is revising its plans for council spending in 1988-89 to allow a 7 per cent increase to take account of what councils are actually spending this year.

## F3 Tornado jets fly in proudest RAF tradition



Two Royal Air Force Tornado F3 swing-wing jet fighters, flown by Squadron Leader Al Lockwood and Flight Lieutenant Andy Neil, above RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, on their public debut yesterday. The RAF's latest fighter will become operational next month with a squadron whose biplanes first went into action on the Western Front

almost 72 years ago (David Sapsted writes). The new arrivals, derived from the GR1 interdictor/strike aircraft developed by Britain, Germany and Italy, are part of what the Strike Command calls "the most comprehensive re-equipment programme ever undertaken by the RAF". With a patrol range of 750 nautical miles, the F3's main ar-

mament is the Skyflash missile, capable of engaging targets from above or below. It can also carry the latest version of the Sidewinder missile and has a 27mm Mauser cannon. In all, 165 Tornado F3s have been ordered by the RAF. The first to be delivered is currently being operated by No 229 Operational Conversion Unit, based at

RAF Coningsby, which in the past has flown several distinguished aircraft. Squadron Leader Lockwood and Flight Lieutenant Neil follow in the path of distinguished squadron members such as James McCudden VC, the First World War ace, Henry Seagrave, who was later to hold the world land and water speed records, and Guy

Gibson VC, who led 617 Squadron's famous "dambuster" raid. The airfield itself plays an important part in RAF history. Opened in 1940, it was the base for many of the aircraft which took part in the first 1,000-bomber raid. It was the home also of the Lancasters who formed the special Pathfinder group. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

### Organizations attack child benefit 'cuts'

## Freeze like 'cheating people out of 30p a week'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Organizations representing families and children last night accused the Government of "cheating" children out of millions of pounds by effectively cutting child benefit by 30p a week.

"Child benefit has been recognized as the simplest and most effective method of assisting mothers and of relieving child poverty", said Miss Fran Bennett, director of the Child Poverty Action Group.

The group argued that child benefit should have been increased to £7.90 next April in line with inflation, and to make good a 35p cut in real terms when the allowance was not increased enough in November 1985.

Since 1979 the real value of child benefit had fallen by 3 per cent while the single

person's tax allowance had increased by 15 per cent and the married man's allowance by 17 per cent.

Miss Bennett said: "Today is a dark day for the seven million mothers and 12 million children who receive child benefit".

Yesterday the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Moore, revealed that the Government would save £120 million next year by freezing child benefit at its present level of £7.25 a week. Had it been updated in line with inflation, it would have risen to £7.55.

He stressed that the Government would be spending £220 million on the new family credit scheme and £100 million extra on families in income support.

Family credit would go

directly to help low income working families with children and it would reach twice as many people as the present family income supplement. "Thus more will be spent on families overall, but the greatest emphasis will be on those with the greatest needs", said Mr Moore.

He said that the new benefit rates would be announced shortly, but the proposed figures for income support were £33.40 for single people aged 25 and over, and £51.45 for couples.

These rates would also apply for housing benefit and for the threshold for family credit, he said.

The family premium would be £6.15; for a single pensioner it would be £10.65; and for couples £16.25.

The number of those who gain from the change in the structure of benefits would rise by a million - from 2.2 to 3.2 million. The number who gain or would be unaffected would go to 4.9 million, while the number of those who lose would drop to 3.7 million.

Mr Moore said he was also proposing that the "rent taper" to reimburse housing benefit claimants should be 65 per cent of net income.

Under the new benefits schemes, sick and disabled people would get a rise of nearly £5 a week in disposable income.

"This is in addition to substantial increases planned on estimated expenditure on the disability benefits themselves." As expected he announced that most other

benefits would rise by 4.2 per cent in line with inflation in the week beginning April 11 next year.

The married couples' retirement pension will go up £2.56 to £65.90; the single person's retirement pension will rise £1.65 to £41.15; and contributory benefits for the disabled, public service pensions, war pensions and similar benefits will rise by 4.2 per cent.

Benefits for one parent families will rise from £4.70 to £4.90 and statutory sick pay and maternity pay will also rise in line with inflation.

The maternity grant will rise to £85 in April.

The Health Visitor's Association said that the announcement would be a major blow to millions of parents.

## MPs anger over child benefit

Continued from page 1

"package of broken promises and headline benefits", which would result in millions facing worse hardship next April.

Although the Government has decided against taxing child benefit, Mr Moore is concerned that it is paid to all mothers, irrespective of their income.

He told the House of Commons that child benefit cost more than £4 billion a year, and that an increase "would be of greatest help to those who are already relatively well-off and whose living standards are already rising".

Mr Moore was warned of opposition to his decision from Tory backbenchers when Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, said concern was not only felt on the so-called "wet" side of the party.

Sir Ian Gilmour asked how the Secretary of State could justify this discrimination as child benefit had fallen in real terms since 1979.

Mr Robin Squire, MP for Hornchurch, said the switch to means-tested benefit would mean many poor families not getting assistance.

The Secretary of State denied that he had specific proposals to change the nature of child benefit, but admitted that because of its cost and general application, it had to be kept constantly under review.

## Moscow revives summit hopes

From A Correspondent  
Moscow

An agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles (INF) will be signed at a superpower summit meeting, a Soviet government official said yesterday.

The announcement, which was given a cautious welcome in Washington, appeared to improve the chances of a summit, which suffered a setback when a meeting between the American and Soviet foreign ministers last week ended with no agreement on a date.

Mr Boris Piyadshchev, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that he could not say exactly when the INF agreement would be signed. "But it is already clear that it will be prepared in the near future for signature at summit level, as had been agreed between the leaders of our two countries."

He gave a generally upbeat assessment of the talks between the two countries.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, but he emphasized that Moscow was still seeking progress on "key provisions" on strategic arms and strengthening the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty before a new summit meeting could take place.

Mr Piyadshchev's statement came amid new movement on the US-Soviet front, as Mr Jack Matlock, the US Ambassador, was summoned to a meeting with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Tass said only that the discussions focused on "matters of mutual interest", and the US Embassy would not comment further.

But it seems likely that a letter which Mr Gorbachev said he was writing to President Reagan would be high on the agenda. According to Soviet officials, the letter sets out the Soviet position as restated in the talks between Mr Shultz and Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Piyadshchev insisted that "key provisions" of an agreement on reducing strategic arms and on strengthening the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty (ABM) - which would prevent testing of the US Strategic Defence Initiative - had to be worked out before a summit could take place.

Mr Gorbachev's insistence that these "key provisions" should be agreed beforehand prevented the summit date from being fixed.

Mr Piyadshchev, noting that, on INF, "in a very brief period of time we may witness a breakthrough in the area of nuclear disarmament", said that "one and a half months would be enough to prepare a broad agenda for the meeting of the two leaders", including the strategic arms and ABM issues.

But this statement did not appear to break new ground, as Mr Gorbachev said last week that he was prepared to go to the United States before the end of this year providing that the details on strategic arms cuts and the ABM treaty were agreed beforehand.

## Belgian fishermen threaten to join Channel ports blockade

Continued from page 1

of sea that they have fished for centuries.

Mr Yves Caugant, a skipper on one of the French boats blockading Boulogne, said: "We are trying to build a united Europe. Britain, part of Europe, suddenly says no to French fishermen. We have always got on well with British fishermen but anything can happen now."

Only hovercraft services from Boulogne and Calais

were working normally, because their open harbours were impossible to blockade.

The fishermen last night sent a delegation to Paris in an attempt to resolve the dispute. The French ministry of foreign affairs has asked the British Foreign Office to open negotiations on the possibility of French fishermen being allowed to continue to fish inside the new territorial limits.

A spokesman for the French ministry of the sea said he

believed the solution lay in the hands of the British.

The change to the territorial limits was taken to bring Britain in line with France. France extended her own territorial waters to 12 miles in 1971, but at the time there was no community fishing agreement.

As the Boulogne fishermen moved in to blockade Calais from 11am yesterday morning, scuffles and disputes broke out between the Boulogne protesters and Calais

fishermen opposed to what amounted to flying pickets blockading their port.

Mr Barron, the information officer in Calais, described the scenes, saying: "There were about 20 boats from Boulogne, with six or seven men on board each boat. The captain of the port, Mr Gerard Provost, tried to reason with the Boulogne men but they refused to discuss anything with him."

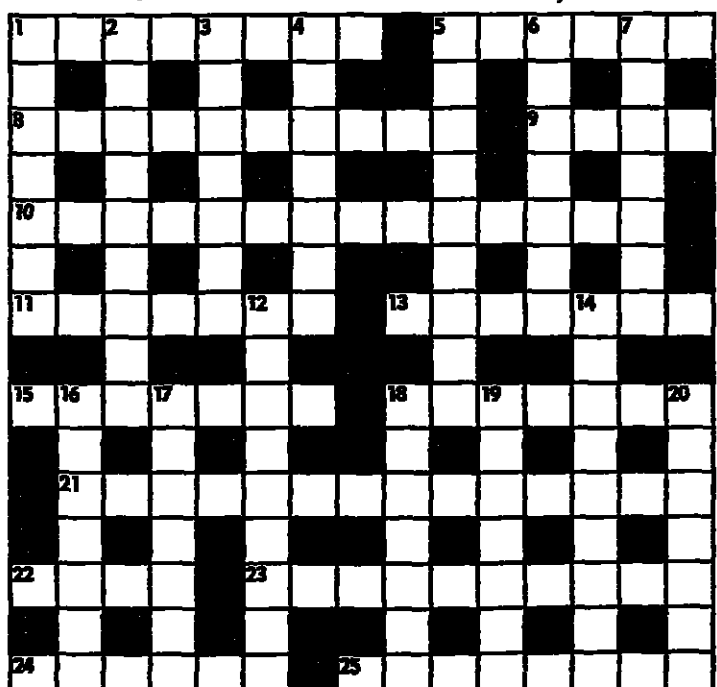
"The fishermen in Calais do not agree with this action. The

Calais fishermen are being allowed to pass between the Boulogne boats. There have been some fights between the two sides. No-one has been hurt."

One lorry driver, Mr Alan Leech, described the scenes of chaos in Calais after arriving in Dover yesterday after being diverted from Calais to Zeebrugge.

"Lorry drivers and tourists were getting really frustrated. They were very angry with the French fishermen."

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,499



- ACROSS**
- Among barons, perhaps, be rejected as lowly (8).
  - Recovery vehicle? (4,2).
  - Mad Hatter free from that point (10).
  - Chap joining Norm in France (4).
  - Fan such as Leander? (4-10).
  - About to clasp in compassion (7).
  - Be awarded medal by monarch in royal house (7).
  - Top person appears in shocking pink (7).
  - Iago, for example, in play - not novel (7).
  - Black cat, perhaps, showing customary courage (8,6).
  - High priest (4).
  - Like factories adjoining River Test (10).
  - Seat provides fixed support for driver (6).
  - Adroitly contrived great devotion (8).

- DOWN**
- More aggressive Snark hunter (7).
  - Pilot sets out with airmen? Not I (9).
  - Fighting over poetic point in pub (4,3).
  - Judge advert with ease, say (7).
  - Country's split by French artist, we hear (9).
  - Bit editor's written supporting top sportsman (7).
  - Neath game in Japan gives experience (7).
  - Picture tranquil existence (5,4).
  - Plant produces weapon in perfect condition (9).
  - Aggravate home-lover (7).
  - Sportsman makes James sound almost unpleasant (7).
  - For example, Lord's stranded (7).
  - Excellent start for any clue (7).
  - Join to match perfectly (7).

Concise Crossword, page 13

### WEATHER

A ridge of high pressure will cover most of the United Kingdom. England, Wales and Scotland will have a generally dry and sunny day. The extreme south-east of England will start cloudy with rain, soon clearing to produce sunny spells especially in the afternoon. North-west Scotland and the Northern Isles may catch one or two showers. Temperatures everywhere will be close to or slightly above the late October average with generally light winds. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: mainly dry with sunny intervals after overnight frost and fog. It will become colder with rain in the south.

### ABROAD

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.					
Aleppo	c	18	24	18	24
Algeria	c	18	24	18	24
Amman	c	18	24	18	24
Baghdad	c	18	24	18	24
Bombay	c	18	24	18	24
Buenos Aires	c	18	24	18	24
Calcutta	c	18	24	18	24
Cairo	c	18	24	18	24
Colon	c	18	24	18	24
Hong Kong	c	18	24	18	24
London	c	18	24	18	24
Lyons	c	18	24	18	24
Madrid	c	18	24	18	24
Moscow	c	18	24	18	24
New York	c	18	24	18	24
Paris	c	18	24	18	24
Rangoon	c	18	24	18	24
Shanghai	c	18	24	18	24
Singapore	c	18	24	18	24
Tokyo	c	18	24	18	24
Yokohama	c	18	24	18	24

### AROUND BRITAIN

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.					
Cardiff	c	18	24	18	24
Edinburgh	c	18	24	18	24
London	c	18	24	18	24
Manchester	c	18	24	18	24
Newcastle	c	18	24	18	24
Nottingham	c	18	24	18	24
Sheffield	c	18	24	18	24
Sunderland	c	18	24	18	24
Swansea	c	18	24	18	24
Torquay	c	18	24	18	24
Wolverhampton	c	18	24	18	24
Wrexham	c	18	24	18	24

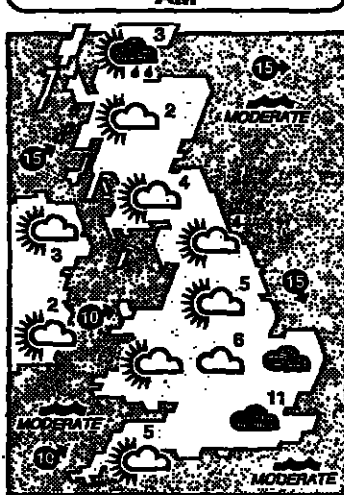
### HIGH TIDES

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.					
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24
London Bridge	c	18	24	18	24

### THE POUND

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.					
Australia	c	18	24	18	24
Canada	c	18	24	18	24
France	c	18	24	18	24
Germany	c	18	24	18	24
Italy	c	18	24	18	24
Japan	c	18	24	18	24
Norway	c	18	24	18	24
Portugal	c	18	24	18	24
Spain	c	18	24	18	24
Sweden	c	18	24	18	24
Switzerland	c	18	24	18	24
USA	c	18	24	18	24
Yugoslavia	c	18	24	18	24

### AM



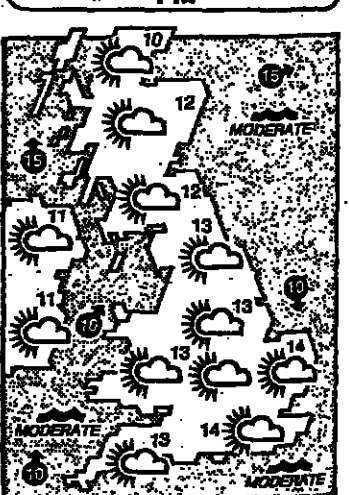
### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.12 pm to 6.18 pm  
Edinburgh 5.12 pm to 6.27 pm  
Belfast 5.12 pm to 6.31 pm  
Penzance 5.12 pm to 6.31 pm

### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.  
London 18.2, 24.1  
Edinburgh 18.2, 24.1  
Belfast 18.2, 24.1  
Penzance 18.2, 24.1

### PM



### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 pm to 8 pm, 18.2 (18.2); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 11.1 (11.1). Humidity: 6 pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Wind: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Fog: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. 1,000 mbar = 29.92 in.

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 15.0 (15.0). Lowest day temp: Guernsey, 15.0 (15.0). Highest night temp: Guernsey, 15.0 (15.0). Lowest night temp: Guernsey, 15.0 (15.0). 1,000 mbar = 29.92 in.

### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 11.1 (11.1); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 11.1 (11.1). Humidity: 6 pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Wind: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Fog: 24.1 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. 1,000 mbar = 29.92 in.

### NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre



Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1322.0 (+14.9)

FT-SE 100  
1703.3 (+19.2)

Bargains  
575.23 (57989)

USM (Datastream)  
163.9 (+2.69)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6955 (+0.0075)

W German mark  
2.9683 (-0.0079)

Trade-weighted  
74.1 (same)

Guinness in Parnes settlement

Guinness has reached an agreement with Mr Anthony Parnes, the London stockbroker, in its legal dispute over his involvement in the company's successful bid for Distillers last year.

At a five-minute hearing in the High Court yesterday, Mr Richard Field, QC, told Mr Justice Walton there had been "discussions" and the company no longer needed to pursue its case for asset-freezing orders against Mr Parnes, aged 42, who is in custody in Los Angeles awaiting extradition to Britain.

A temporary order granted to Guinness this month, freezing Mr Parnes's British assets up to £3.6 million pending negotiations in the company's claim against him, was not continued.

The judge, at Guinness's request, also discharged orders requiring Mr Parnes to give details that would allow the money to be traced.

Mr Parnes was detained last month by FBI officers at Los Angeles Airport.

The stockbroker, nicknamed "The Animal" for chasing huge share deals, is being investigated by the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad for his alleged involvement in Guinness's £2.76 billion bid for Distillers.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1831.9 (+37.97)
Dow Jones	22834.96 (+632.40)
Hong Kong	2395.72 (+164.03)
Amsterdam	228.1 (+4.5)
Sydney	1323.1 (+89.5)
Frankfurt	1598.2 (+17.0)
Brussels	4224.2 (+83.7)
Paris	3174.1 (+1.5)
Zurich	3174.1 (+1.5)
London	
FT-30 Share	1322.0 (+14.9)
FT-100	1703.3 (+19.2)
FT-100 Index	1703.3 (+19.2)
FT-100 Vol	88.82 (-0.78)
Recent issues	Page 28
Closing prices	Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Allied Lyons	338p (+18p)
Nat West	555p (+25p)
PAO	480p (+20p)
Royal Insurance	335p (+15p)
Howard Holdings	80p (+15p)
Greens King	455p (+25p)
Vaux Group	310p (+10p)
Reed Int'l	405p (+25p)
Rothmans	348p (+31p)
Cable & Wireless	307p (+27p)
Airtel Group	355p (+10p)
DC Cook	217p (+27p)
Sainsbury	241p (+15p)
Kwik Fit	170p (+15p)
Scots	224p (+15p)
Tarmac	224p (+15p)
Corn Gold	815p (+50p)

FALLS:	
MTG	20p (-20p)
Matthew Brown	600p (-65p)
Parsons Group	685p (-22p)
Prices are as at 4pm	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9 1/4%
3-month Interbank	9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/4%
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.27-5.28%
30-year bonds	8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6955	£ \$1.6955
£ DM2.9683	£ DM2.9683
£ Sfr12.4844	£ Sfr12.4844
£ ¥107.077	£ ¥107.077
£ Yen225.83	£ Yen225.83
£ Index74.1	£ Index74.1
ECU 20.9287	ECU 20.9287

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$473.45 pm \$474.00	
close \$475.50-476.00 (\$280.50-281.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$476.10-476.50	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Dec) pm \$19.90 (\$18.90)	
* Denotes latest trading price	

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Comex	USM Prices	31
City Diary	Money Markets	31
Co News	Foreign Exch	31
Traded Opt		

# President urged to back \$23bn deficit reduction scheme

## Pressure builds on Reagan

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan is being pressed to agree to more than \$23 billion (\$13.6 billion) in deficit reduction measures following Monday's stock market losses, which injected a new note of urgency into the budget negotiations that began in earnest yesterday.

For the first time, there were suggestions from the Administration that the White House and Congress should use a domestic budget accord as leverage to wrest new economic concessions from Japan and West Germany.

A three-pronged approach would not only send a strong, positive message to international markets, but would also bolster the flagging commitment of the powerful Group of Seven nations to coordinate their policies to stabilize currencies, officials said.

President Reagan sought to reassure markets of his commitment to the talks yesterday by issuing a statement that he "pledged to put aside politics" during the critical negotiations. He issued the statement before leaving on a private trip to Phoenix, Arizona, to complete funeral arrangements for his wife's mother.

The idea of a new international accord was floated as negotiators clamped a news blackout on the talks, which focused, for the first time, on specific ways to reduce America's \$170 billion budget deficit. An international accord could only be negotiated if the US achieves large domestic reductions, officials said.

Congressional leaders, with an eye on the 1988 presidential campaign, want reductions greater than the \$23 billion already required by the reconstituted Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law. Both Republicans and Democrats see the negotiations as a strong political opportunity to demonstrate leadership to a nervous financial community.

The most vocal proponent is Mr Robert Dole, the Senate Republican minority leader, who is a leading candidate for the 1988 presidential nomination. The White House negotiating team, led by Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, and Mr Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, went into the talks yesterday with a list of options.

Sources said that the Administration is interested in discussing the possibility of two-year budgets for military spending, and other critical areas of the economy. A freeze on spending at current levels, greater reductions in Medicare and farm-subsidy programmes are also on the list.

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Comings and goings at No 11 yesterday: Mr Norman Lamont, (left) the Financial Secretary, arrives and Mr Nigel Lawson, (right) the Chancellor, leaves for the House

## Underwriters resigned to BP sale going ahead

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The world financial community is now preparing to find the estimated £850 million it will need to cover losses if the Government goes ahead with the sale of its 31.5 per cent shareholding in BP at a price of 330p compared with last night's market price of 260p.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said yesterday that he will make a final decision tomorrow on whether the sale will go ahead, but the majority view in the City is that the sale will not be shelved and that trading in the shares will start at 2.30pm on Friday with the financial institutions who have underwritten the offer facing instant losses.

As well as being left holding 2,194 million shares in BP which will be worth 60p less than they paid for them, they will have to cover the difference between the 330p price and the market price to the Government.

This has led to predictions that some institutions will have to unload other shares and further depress the market. The underwriters still have the option to put their case to the Bank of England and argue that there has been a fundamental change in the circumstances in the stock markets since the price was set.

The public who originally voiced their intention to buy into BP have until 10 am today to submit applications to the regional receiving centres for the share offer. It is estimated that more than 100,000 investors have already sent in applications, but many have now been phoning BP to find out if they can cancel their applications and stop their cheques.

The legal position, according to the Treasury, is that the applications will be processed and that stopping payment on a cheque could result in legal action being taken. However, people who attempt to stop cheques sent in before the market price started plummeting may be treated sympathetically and some lawyers have been advising clients to send in letters before today's cut-off point cancelling their applications. They suggest that it is possible to cancel applications up to the point when shares are actually allocated, which if the original timetable is adhered to will not be until the first week in November.

The underwriters, however, can only hope that their losses will be averted by the Chancellor announcing on Thursday that the sale is being delayed until market conditions improve. More than half of the risk is carried by 16 main underwriters in Britain with much of their commitment underwritten by 400 smaller institutions. Overseas the position is different. In the US four main banks face instant losses of £66 million each, in Japan five finance houses are liable to pay £88 million and in Canada three institutions face a combined loss of £56 million. The overseas underwriters did not sub-underwrite the risk.

But the Association of British Insurers, which has 50 of its 430 members involved as sub-underwriters, said yesterday: "ABI members are quite prepared for the issue to go ahead and they will, of course, meet their obligations."

## Useful £5.7m

The Really Useful Group, which exploits copyrights of musicals such as Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, reported a 33 per cent increase in pretax profits to £5.7 million for the year to end-June. A final dividend of 9.15p was declared making a total of 13.25p for the year (11.25p). *Temps*, page 26

## N Brown leap

Interim pretax profits at N Brown, the direct mail order group headed by Mr David Alliance, jumped 79 per cent to £4.9 million on turnover up 37 per cent to £41.2 million. The dividend is 3p and the directors are proposing a split of two new 10p shares for every one 20p share held. *Temps*, page 26

## Morgan could quit US on losses

By Bailey Morris in New York, and Richard Thomson in London

Morgan Grenfell has suffered big losses in its US operations in the aftermath of the plunge in share prices on world markets, high-level sources said yesterday. The loss could mean the closure of its securities trading business in New York, making it one of the first British casualties of the market's crash.

The merchant bank has lost \$25 million (£14.7 million) in its US arbitrage unit, which effectively wiped out an arbitrage book estimated at \$60 million, officials said.

Morgan Grenfell sources in London stressed that after taking into account a profit for the rest of the year, the net trading loss so far was estimated at between \$10 million and \$12 million.

Morgan has also lost a substantial amount in London, but sources put it at under £10 million. So far this year, trading in London is still showing a profit, sources said.

At the same time, Mr Keith Harris, president of Morgan's North American operations, is resigning. Mr Harris had direct charge of the arbitrage, corporate finance and capital markets units.

His resignation is expected to be announced next week. Mr Harris has told colleagues that his resignation was long planned and had nothing to do with the US losses. He intends to accept a position with Drexel Burnham Lambert and to take three or four Morgan employees with him.

Morgan Grenfell has been plagued by employee turn-overs in its US operations. Mr Harris has held his position for little more than a year.

The losses and resignations have bolstered speculation that Morgan Grenfell's US operations were becoming unprofitable and may have to be merged with C.J. Lawrence, the highly profitable New York broker firm it bought last year.

A senior securities executive at Morgan said: "We've certainly suffered a major hit in New York. We will have to re-evaluate what we're doing there but it is too early to say exactly what we'll decide."

"There will certainly be a move to cut out peripheral activities," Morgan bought C.J. Lawrence for \$70 million last December but continued to run its existing New York operation separately. As an agency broker, C.J. Lawrence has a minimal dealing exposure to the securities markets.

## IBM buy-back of \$1bn shares lifts Wall Street hopes

From Charles Bremner, New York

Share prices rebounded in heavy trading on Wall Street yesterday although the rally petered out as a mood of optimism, triggered by the European and Asian markets' performance, appeared to wane.

IBM's announcement that it was buying back \$1 billion (£600 million) of its own shares also boosted market sentiment early in the session, when the Dow Jones industrial average rose 83 points from Monday's close and then dropped to a modest 26-point gain, standing at 1,820 an hour before closing.

IBM was one of several big companies to announce buy-back plans. Its shares rose \$5 to \$117 on the news. The shares stood as high as \$175 dollars earlier this year.

"This recovery has no substance yet," said Mr Monte Gordo of Drexler Corporation. "Our bet is firmly planted in mid-air. We're going to have a volatile market for a while, until we get to the point where investors have enough confidence to buy a stock and hold it."

Other traders said the New York market appeared to be taking its lead from Tokyo, rather than the other way around. In mid-session, Washington issued the good news that an index showing factory orders last month for "big ticket" durable goods rose 1.1 per cent, the first increase since June.

And Democratic and Republican leaders said they were optimistic that negotiations with the White House could cut the budget deficit.

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## Nomura asks to be gilt market-maker

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Nomura International Finance, the London office of Nomura Securities, Japan's largest securities house, yesterday announced that it had applied to the Bank of England to become a gilt-edged market-maker. Daiwa, the second largest Japanese securities house, will apply within the next few days.

Yesterday was the first day for new applications to join the market, exactly a year after the new structure was initiated. The Bank kept the application list closed for the first year to allow the market to establish itself.

If they are granted permission, Nomura and Daiwa will become the first two Japanese houses to join the gilt market. They were absent from the original list of market-makers drawn up last year when there was friction between British and Japanese authorities over the restrictive attitudes of the Tokyo markets towards letting in foreign firms.

The situation has eased considerably since then, but sources close to the Bank say that it may be at least three months before permission is granted.

## Dollar at lowest since 1980

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar fell to its lowest levels since 1980 against the market yesterday, unaffected by a steadier performance for share prices on Wall Street.

Some central bank intervention to stem its fall was detected by dealers and the Federal Reserve Board of New York may have bought dollars. But any such intervention was modest.

A sharp rise in Germany's trade surplus, announced yesterday, contributed to the dollar's drop. Foreign exchange dealers believe that the Group of Seven countries are prepared to see the dollar fall gradually.

It fell by a penny to DM1.7625 and dropped from Y142.15 to Y141.45. Later in New York, the dollar dropped further to DM1.7575 and Y141.15.

The pound rose above \$1.70 in New York and was quoted at \$1.7030 last night. In London, it closed 75 points up at \$1.6955. But the pound edged down slightly against the mark, closing at DM2.9883. The sterling index was steady at 74.1.

The West German trade surplus last month was DM11.5 billion (£3.8 billion), just below the record of DM11.6 billion in December last year and sharply up on the August figure of DM6.5 billion (£2.2 billion).

The current account surplus was DM6.5 billion last month, up from DM2.4 billion in August. Exports rose by 27 per cent, while imports recovered by 16 per cent.

Although much of the September improvement was seasonal, economists believe that the figures show that the domestic economy is strengthening and that German industry has learned to cope with exchange rates at present levels.

The weakness of the dollar hit the US bond market. In early afternoon trading in New York, the US long bond was down by 1 1/2 points and the yield had risen above 9 cent.

Gilts opened sharply lower, on fears that the Chancellor would cancel the BP share sale. But they recovered to end the day less than half a point down.

Pressure for a reduction in base rates eased as money market interest rates firmed.

## Multi-million pound display of coloured gems in town

By Colin Narbrough

coloured. Some of its "pinks" are the colour of Bordeaux wines, while others almost reach a navy blue. Most of its coloured stones are, however, in the yellow end of the spectrum.

Colour offers different ways to wear diamonds. "You can wear these to a barbecue," Mr Fitzgerald says with the straightforwardness of a Crocodile Dundee, adding, however, that wearers may have to explain to people that they really are diamonds.

Argyle has locked away many good coloured stones in its safe, confident that in years to come they will be worth a great deal more than now. With such a policy, and no alternative source of any significance, the gems are not readily available on the market.

Argyle, which started up in 1984, is sitting on 20 years' proven reserves in its Western Australian mine, satisfied that the market will come round to its way of thinking.

Of the 30 million carats it produces each year, coloured stones account for a

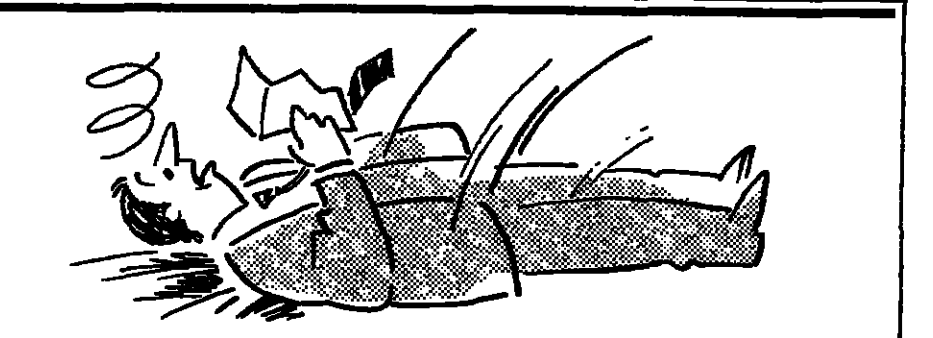
## Hue is the cry for diamond style

Diamonds may be for ever, but there is no reason why they cannot be coloured. That, in essence, is the message Argyle, the world's biggest producer of diamonds, is trying to put across to consumers conditioned to the idea that sparklers simply must be traditional white.

On a mission to teach diamond lovers greater appreciation of the less fashionable hues of gemstone, the Australian company will tomorrow launch the Champagne Diamond Exhibition of jewellery and objects designed by Mr Stuart Devlin, Australia's goldsmith to the Queen and designer of his country's coinage.

The glittering show, which features 10,000 champagne and cognac-coloured diamonds, Argyle specialities, is housed at the Goldsmiths Hall in London. After the London exhibition, it will visit Australia, the United States and Japan.

Mr Laurie Fitzgerald, Argyle's product development chief, in town for the event, says the exceptional geology of his company's diamond mine yields stones that are both super-hard and often highly



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# TI keeps its powder dry

**TI Group**

Share price

Relative to the FTA All-share index

DAY/STRM

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The group has improved its margins by more accurately targeted marketing through manipulation of its data base. Pretax profits of £1 million are forecast.

The shares, however, are now on a prospective multiple of 25; more than twice the market average and amply high enough.

10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AE.



# CBI survey highlights optimism in industry

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday demonstrated that manufacturing industry was in many respects in its best state for a decade, and said that the stock market crash would have little impact on the nation's economic growth.

Publishing one of its most buoyant industrial trends surveys, the employers' organization said it was providing further evidence of strength and growth in the British economy.

The survey — coming just seven days before CBI members gather in Glasgow for their annual conference — paints a picture of continuously rising business optimism, vigorous growth in demand at home, higher output, and the first signs of a halt in the downward spiral of manufacturing employment.

CBI leaders yesterday reiterated their view that the "hysteria" of the stock markets was unjustified and did not in any way reflect the



Wigglesworth: confident strength of the British economy.

CBI economists will be reviewing their 1988 forecasts next month, by which time they expect to be able to make a reasoned assessment of the impact of the fall in share prices. But the CBI prediction that manufacturing output will be 5.5 per cent higher in the final quarter of this year than a year ago is unlikely to be changed significantly.

Mr David Wigglesworth, the chairman of the CBI economic situation committee, said yesterday that the survey showed strong demand, that manufacturers expected to go on increasing their output over the next four months and to employ more people.

The survey of 1,358 companies — which account for half of manufacturing employment and exports — was completed before the world stock market crash, but the committee discussed its findings last Friday and decided that the fall in the Stock Exchange did not greatly affect the mood of optimism. The survey showed that business confidence at the time it was taken was high, with 31 per cent of companies saying they were more optimistic than four months before.

Mr Wigglesworth said of the crash: "There is likely to be some impact on British exports to the United States as well as on home demand from people feeling poorer and less confident. But this should not be exaggerated, and the under-

lying health of the economy remains good."

Manufacturing order books are now regarded as above normal by more firms than at any time since 1977, although capital goods producers still report their order books to be below normal.

Nearly all firms are expected to benefit from the rise in output, says the CBI, but there are no signs of overheating in the economy and lack of capacity is not a major constraint. The proportion of companies working below capacity has fallen to 41 per cent.

In the last quarter there has been no fall in employment in manufacturing, more than a fifth of firms, mostly small enterprises, said they expected to employ more people in the coming four months, and 60 per cent said that they would be maintaining existing levels.

Mr Wigglesworth added: "Except for lower share values, the economy is in much the same shape as it was two weeks ago."

## Kennedy in £64m hotel deal

By Michael Tate

London's five-star London-derry Hotel and the luxury Howard Hotel in Manhattan have changed hands in a deal worth £64 million.

The buyer is Kennedy Brooks, the hotels and catering group, which is acquiring them from the Barclays Hotels Group in return for an 11.5 per cent stake in Kennedy and £45 million in cash.

The Kennedy shares have been valued at 390p, a premium of 14 per cent to Monday's closing stock market price.

Both hotels are prime properties in fashionable areas. The 150-bedroom London-derry, on Park Lane, is held on a long lease and has planning permission for £3.5 million of bedroom extensions. The 107-bedroom Howard, located between East 53rd Street and Park Avenue, is freehold.

Mr Michael Golden, the Kennedy chairman, says that the deal "strengthens and further focuses Kennedy Brooks' existing hotel operations".

On completion of the deal, about 80 per cent of Kennedy's assets will be invested in the hotel industry. It will own 21 hotels, including the four-star Onslow in London's Queen's Gate. The two London hotels are expected to play an important role in the marketing of Kennedy's other hotels.

## Nedo warns on shares

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

If the stock market falls below its present levels, fast-growing companies seeking to raise equity capital could encounter difficulties, the National Economic Development Office said yesterday.

But should interest rates then drop, established companies would be able to use such financing more readily, Mr Walter Ellis, Nedo's economic director, said.

A venture such as the Channel tunnel project, however, would be affected because of its reliance on equity capital, he added.

His comments coincided with Nedo's 1987 edition of its British Industrial Performance survey. Mr John Cassels, the Nedo director-general, said the survey showed the underlying performance in Britain's competitiveness was more encouraging than for some time.

Improvements in labour productivity had been favourable by international standards, inflation was under control and profitability was



John Cassels: "encouraging" rising, making it possible for companies to invest more, Mr Cassels said.

The effect of the stock market crash on industry had to be seen in the context of the market. With a fifth of the value off the top, it was back to its position of last January, Mr Ellis said.

"If the market stays there then it does not significantly change things. Things will only change significantly if there is more instability in the world stock markets," he said.

If markets did not worsen further, he expected companies to be "fairly relaxed" about investment. The internal profits of British companies were better than for a long time, which meant this was another possible source of investment financing, he added.

"If British industry is going to have to produce in a less favourable environment for the next few years than the competitiveness of British in-

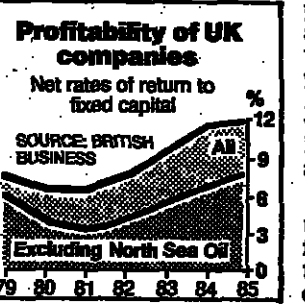


Walter Ellis: "well placed" industry is going to be especially important. But it was possible to prosper even in an unfriendly environment, he said.

On cost competitiveness, Britain was "rather well placed" to survive if times became more difficult, said Mr Ellis. But the country was less well placed than most competitors on investment, including research and development, and on the proportion of the population in higher education.

Britain's standard of living, measured on real gross domestic product per head of the population, has improved by 60 per cent over 20 years. In this time, Britain, from a leading position behind the US, has fallen behind West Germany, Japan and France, the survey showed. Britain was now 20th in the industrialized countries league.

British Industrial Performance 1987 edition: £12.50 from Nedo, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QX.



## Celltech planning £50 million placing

By Alexandra Jackson

Celltech, a leading European biotechnology group, is planning to raise approximately £50 million through an international private placing later this year by Baring Brothers, the merchant bank.

Mr Gerard Fairclough, the chief executive of Celltech, said: "Despite recent happenings on world stock markets, we are confident of our ability to proceed with the placing."

The fundamentals for the business remain intact."

Celltech has a well established business involved, among other activities, in the production of monoclonal antibodies for its own and third party use. These are increasingly deployed in the pharmaceutical industry.

The money raised in the placing will be used to fund the group's expansion into the bio-pharmaceuticals market.

Celltech aims to develop and market drugs itself rather than licence them to large pharmaceutical companies.

Celltech has six products in its portfolio which are in the course of development. The two most advanced of these aim to treat shock and brain haemorrhage. Celltech's technological experience is expected to enable it to launch a drug for two-thirds of the industry's normal average of \$100 million (£59.31 million).

Celltech announced yesterday that it has been awarded a contract worth several million pounds from Ortho Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, to produce EPO, a hormone used in the treatment of kidney disease.

Celltech is currently owned by several institutional and corporate shareholders and since its establishment in 1980 has raised £27 million. In due course it will seek a full listing.

## Eat, drink and why worry?

The depression which has been hanging over the stock market was temporarily forgotten last night as hundreds of brokers and merchant bankers stayed on after office hours to celebrate the first anniversary of Big Bang. Jollies by far was the "Big Bang Boogie" aboard a Thames paddle steamer, organized by stockbroker Wood Mackenzie for its staff of 160. "We wouldn't have considered cancelling it," says senior partner John Chisne. "It's always a good idea to let off steam, and that's just what we did. We got through last week in shipshape condition and so we've got every reason to celebrate." Meanwhile, some 450 other City slickers were sipping champagne and gin and tonic at a cocktail party at the Whitbread Brewery in Chiswell Street. It was hosted by Consultants Computer & Financial, supplier of back office and dealing room computers to most of London's major financial institutions. "No one decided not to come because of the stock market," says CCF chairman Tim Simon. "People are worried by its gyrations, but they are a lot more positive about it now."

## Moore, please

Not many company chief executives would crack open a celebratory bottle of champagne within minutes of learning that their personal fortune had been diminished by £1.6 million. But Alan Moore, who owns 6 per cent of Burns

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### BP, in black and white

Queues have been forming, I hear, in the Grosvenor Street offices of City law firm Linklaters to see the underwriting agreement for the BP offer — a document on public display there. One article clerk found himself queuing for more than half an hour, along with City solicitors and merchant bankers, all apparently eager to read the "divine sagacious clause" which states that the offer for sale can be "terminated" in the event of a "material change in relevant circumstances." Linklaters, solicitors to BP, has, in accordance with Stock Exchange rules, been making this and other BP flotation documents available to any member of the public who requests to see them. "We don't keep records of who asks to see them and so we have no idea how many people have been in," says partner Len Berkowitz.

— "and telephoned the office on Tuesday, knowing nothing about what had happened. While it was quite a salutary experience to realise that my stake had fallen by more than a million, it also means that acquisitions will be easier and cheaper for us, with all that money in the bank."

### Sugary talk

You certainly have to be thick-skinned to survive, unscathed, in the Square Mile these days. Amstrad's shares slumped 11p to 122p yesterday for no obvious reason. "Was it, I asked, from about the launch of its new £399 lap-top portable computer, scheduled for today? "No," replied one seasoned market-maker. "It's just that Sugar's appearing on Wogan." Alan Sugar, colourful chairman of the computer group, will indeed be appearing on the chat show this evening — a television must for all shareholders.

## On your superbike

City yuppies contemplating the sale of their Porches, think, it seems, that a custom-made bicycle is a more street-credible alternative means of transport than a third-hand Reliant Robin. One City institution where the collapse in share prices is having a positive effect on its balance sheet is Concor Cycles, a purveyor of hand-built racing and touring bicycles to three generations of City slickers at — including Gerald Ronson and Mick Jagger. Monty Young, managing director of the Grays Inn-based firm, tells me: "Dozens of miserable-looking people from the City have been filing through my doors during the past few days saying they are having to give up their fancy cars and would like to replace them with a custom-built bicycle." They range from around £250 to £5,000, and optional extras include a solar-powered computer to measure distance, speed and the rider's pulse rate. One Japanese broker who ordered a £1,035 bike at the weekend spent a further £300 on clothing — a skin tight body suit, Biggles-style goggles and head band.

— Institutional investors are suddenly appreciating the attractions of so-called investments. Directors of Celltech, a biotechnology group planning a private placing this year, were greeted enthusiastically on a recent marketing trip to potential investors in Europe. "If it's not good, you can't watch it go down," said one Parisian fund manager.

Carol Leonard

## NFC to decide on going public

By Alison Eadie

The board of the National Freight Consortium will decide on Friday, against a backdrop of falling stock markets, whether to recommend a public flotation to its employee share owners.

The top 100 managers of the NFC, responsible for the buy-out from the Government in February 1982, will meet on Friday morning to discuss the issues. The board will then reach a decision that afternoon and put its recommendation to shareholders at the annual meeting in February.

NFC shares are valued quarterly and can only be traded on four dealing days a year. The shares are now worth 135p each, compared with an equivalent starting price, after a scrip issue and share splits, of 2.5p.

The main reason for going public would be to ensure marketability of the shares. The present matched bargain basis of trading experiences a turnover of about 6 per cent of the company's equity a year.

The fall-out in the stock market could mean that the new valuation of shares — due next month — will show a levelling off, or even falling, in price for the first time. The state of the stock market is one of the factors considered by the independent valuers in assessing the worth of NFC shares.

The company is valued at £418 million but is expected to be worth considerably more if the market recovers. Sir Peter Thompson, chairman, accepts the inevitability of going public, but the method and timing of flotation are open to debate.

Bus privatization, page 30

## Molins chief leaves after board decision

A boardroom split at Molins, the manufacturer of machinery for the tobacco industry, has resulted in the decision of Mr Christopher Ross, managing director by the unanimous decision of the rest of the board of the company.

Dr Tess Frankel, the chairman of the company, is taking over Mr Ross's duties until a new managing director is appointed to the position. Dr Frankel said Mr Ross's departure was the result of basic incompatibility in management style and temperament. There was no difference of opinion over the company's strategy.

## COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

### A blow to London's world market status

If the Chancellor, or the Prime Minister, had decided that it was right to shelve the £7.2 billion BP share sale, he should have said so in the Commons yesterday. If he has decided that the sale will go ahead, he should have said so in the Commons yesterday. He may want, as the party pundits suggest, merely to allow time for the ritual procedures of consultation between the bankers, brokers and underwriters, the Treasury and the Bank of England to be gone through at length. He will then announce the decision which he made at the beginning: the sale will go on, as he implied it would in his statement in the Commons yesterday.

Not everyone reads events of the last two days in the same light. Less flatteringly, the Chancellor is seen to have dithered; and to be looking for some small miracle in the London, Wall Street and Tokyo markets that would help him resolve a serious dilemma. Furthermore, if Mr Lawson sticks to his thin red line and the offer is not withdrawn, Mrs Thatcher will have missed a great opportunity of showing the kind of international leadership which she insists is again part of Britain's prerogative.

At a time of grave weakness in the financial markets, the Japanese have done their judicious best to organize support in the Tokyo market, the West Germans have relied on their strict approach to interest rates, and the Americans have pumped money into the system to stave off bankruptcies.

While it is true that we have brought down bank base rates by half a percentage point, the Government's response to the collapse in share prices has been belligerent — "I am not going to be dictated to by markets" (Mr Lawson); chauvinistic — blaming James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, for actually starting the collapse and attacking the Bundesbank for not cutting interest rates (Mr Lawson again); and lacking, so far, the one major gesture — pulling the BP issue — that would be seen in every leading financial centre as positive and statesmanlike.

Postponing the sale would not be difficult, requiring only a simple acknowledgment of the dangers inherent in crashing markets and the common sense of not putting additional liquidity strains on a system already under potentially damaging pressure. Withdrawal would save a great British company from the stigma of a failed issue and the depressing weight of unwanted stock on the BP share price. It would relieve 100,000 or more small shareholders, and perhaps 10,000 BP employees who have already put in their applications for shares, from the depressing sight of an instant capital loss. And far from jeopardising the privatization programme, it would have

helped to guarantee support for it in the future. Moreover, the underwriters undoubtedly have a strong legal case for withdrawal based on the clause in the underwriting agreement which refers to "a proper underwriting risk" when "financial, political, industrial or economic conditions" have changed materially.

There is a determination to ignore consequences of this kind, seemingly in favour of a macho political display by the Chancellor and the sheer delight among some Tory backbenchers of rubbing the noses of underwriters and "the City" in very expensive dirt.

The Government, of course, is committed to income tax reductions and, understandably, does not want to forgo the revenue from the BP sale. But if it looks a little further ahead, it may regret the damage the issue is likely to do to London as an international financial centre. Some 40 per cent of the BP shares has been underwritten overseas, mainly in the US and Japan. They may, or they may not, take their impending losses like men but two things are certain: they will not take kindly to the general joy with which their bad luck is greeted here; nor will they be impressed by the machinery of consultation by which decisions in the BP case are taken and the narrow nationalistic attitude we are taking to the worst shakeout in stock markets since 1929.

When the talk turned yesterday to long-term worries about the privatization programme and, heaven forfend, doubts over the public sector borrowing requirement, things were going much too far. The PSBR is heading for a third successive large undershoot this year, with or without the £1.1 billion the Treasury expects to get from BP. Slower growth in the economy may make a large public sector repayment somewhat less likely. But the £4 billion target/forecast, which the Chancellor will update in his autumn statement within the next fortnight, will be met with quite a bit to spare.

The loss of BP would leave a hole in the privatization programme this year. But with nearly £4 billion of the £5 billion target already in — £1.8 billion from British Gas, £1.1 billion from Rolls-Royce, £480 million from BAA and £430 million from British Airways — the Treasury has already done most of its work in this area.

Next year, nearly half of the £5 billion target is already firm — from the third British Gas payment and the second instalment of BAA. The Government can also, from April 1988, sell its remaining 49.8 per cent stake in British Telecom. Even after the shake-out, that stake was worth £6.5 billion yesterday, enough to tide the privatization programme over until water and electricity proceeds start to flow in.

## THE SMART MONEY'S MOVING INTO GILTS

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INDEPENDENT ADVICE  
ON A CRUCIAL DECISION

Government initiative to help Britain's holiday industry

## Training in tourism needs 'new strategy'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor



Norman Fowler: Initiative

A new strategy for training in Britain's growing tourism industry is the aim of an initiative announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment.

He is calling a meeting of key people from the industry to form a working group to establish a comprehensive and co-ordinated strategy for training.

Mr Fowler said his department had a major role to ensure the industry continued to grow and maximize its employment potential. The growth rate of jobs in recent years had been in the region of 50,000 a year, he pointed out. The industry now supports 1.4 million jobs and earns £15 billion a year.

Mr Fowler made the announcement at a conference on tourism training in London at which industry leaders suggested that training needs should be met for leisure and

sport as well as for the hotels and restaurants side of the industry.

Mr John Lee, minister for tourism, said: "Throughout the country there are to be found hotels and catering establishments that are short of people. The industry is beginning to do more itself to open doors to youngsters particularly. The thrust nationally should be to improve

the quality of training and especially to improve the co-ordination of it. There is now a realization by employers that not enough has been done on this."

The working party is expected to produce its first recommendations in time for a national conference early in the new year. The aim is to ensure implementation of the new strategy by the autumn of 1989.

Although there are about 15,000 YTS training places for the industry being provided at a cost of about £30 million, it may be that the tourism industry is receiving too low a share of Manpower Services Commission resources, Mr Lee said.

Nor will the industry necessarily be expected to expand its own spending on training substantially, given the extensive expenditure by some of the large companies in the sector.

## Dahlawi buys 5.9% stake in Tranwood

By Michael Tate

The powerful Al Dahlawi family of Saudi Arabia is the latest recruit to the share register at Tranwood, the young financial services and industrial investment group run by Mr Nick Oppenheim and Mr Peter Earl.

The Al Dahlawi Company has spent more than £2 million on a 5.9 per cent share stake in Tranwood, and Sheikh Amin Dahlawi, head of the family and chairman of the company, has joined the Tranwood board.

Commenting on the deal yesterday, Mr Peter Earl said it gave Tranwood a "direct link-up with a major financial trading and services company in the Middle East."

The bulk of Al Dahlawi's shares has been acquired from Mr Oppenheim and Mr Earl, who are left with holdings of 3.7 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively. The holdings will rise to 4 per cent and 9 per cent on conversion of warrants next year. The purchase price was 42p.

## Engineers 'earn' £20,300 a year

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Chartered professional engineers have average annual earnings of just over £20,300, and a tenth of them are paid £30,000 or more. Technician earnings average just over £15,100 a year.

These figures emerge from the latest biennial survey of the engineering profession, out yesterday, from the Engineering Council, umbrella body for the profession.

For the past two years, the survey says, gross earnings for both engineers and technicians have kept comfortably ahead of price increases. The survey shows, on the basis of median earnings, that chartered engineers saw a rise of nearly 15 per cent over the two years, while technician earnings rose 16 per cent.

Highest earnings for both grades were to be found in the petroleum and petrochemicals industry, followed by electricity generation or distribution and postal and communications services. General management yielded the best rewards, but almost as good were marketing and sales for chartered engineers and, for

technician engineers, instrumentation and control.

Unemployment in the profession continues to be low, with only 1 per cent jobs at the time of the survey last April. There is also more overtime working, with about half the chartered engineers reporting working an average week of more than 42½ hours.

There were increases in the number of engineers taking courses in business studies or management, but three-quarters of them said that there was still room for improvement in their own continuing education and training.

Fewer professional engineers are now members of a trade union. The proportion of chartered engineers with union membership has dropped from 40 per cent to 36.7 per cent while technician engineers reported a drop from 53.5 per cent to 50.5 per cent.

Survey of Chartered and Technician Engineers 1987 by Remuneration Economics (£50): from the Engineering Council, 10 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3ER.

## Two purchases by John Haggas

John Haggas has agreed to acquire Newark Woollen and Hermit Wool Shops which are privately-owned knitting retailing companies based in the Midlands and the North-east respectively. These acquisitions involve the issue of 1.79 million ordinary shares (about 8.2 per cent).

Newark's pretax profits for the year ended March 31 last were £336,000 on a turnover of £5.7 million, almost all of which derived from the sale of hand knitting wools. Hermit's pretax profits for the year ended March 31 last were £31,000 on a turnover of £2.1 million, almost all of which derived from the sale of hand knitting wools.

### Profits double

French Connection, the fashion group, has reported doubled pretax profits to £2.5 million at the interim stage. Turnover rose

by 36 per cent to £30.6 million and the dividend was unchanged at 1.75p. The board said that initial results indicate a good performance in the second half.

### Offer for PLM

A recommended offer is being made by Industrivärden, a Swedish investment company, for PLM of Sweden. The terms are 13 convertible participations.

### More company news is on page 30

notes in Industrivärden for every 10 PLM shares. This offer is equal to a price for the PLM share of about 305 kronor (£28.75) based on the price for the Industrivärden shares on October 23. PLM employees who own PLM convertible notes will receive a similar offer.

### Inco quarterly

Inco is paying a dividend of 5 cents for the third quarter of 1987. Net sales reached \$415 million (£246 million), against \$306 million, while operating results climbed to \$53 million (£30 million). During the first nine months of 1987, Inco generated an internal cash surplus of \$69 million which was used to reduce debt. It is entering the fourth quarter with the strongest markets in five years for its principal products—nickel and copper—and with unit production costs below 1980 levels.

### RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Alfa	120 +5
Amey Plastic (51p)	65 +4
Anglo Leasing	185 -10
Barrow Haemat (105p)	105 -2
Bulls Mining (100p)	100
Coultion	33 +2
Corporate Prop	215 -2
Dorland Pack (105p)	105
Econ Forestry	215 -2
Explores	31 +2
Glaxo	90 +5
Guidhouse	103 +2
ISA Int (80p)	101 +4
Kingspan (100p)	107
Koch Knotters	180 -3
Lloyd Thompson (170p)	180 -3
Marcel Group	88
Power Corp	83 -2
Reactor (85p)	83 -2
Rolls-Royce (170p)	128 +2
Ross Consumer (165p)	165
Rural Plc	98 -2
Sac Anthers	190 -5
Shethabury (180p)	147 +10
Sherratt Pumps (250p)	191 +1
Tubular Earth	24 +1
URS Int	73
USOC Int	143
Whitaker Sacs	26 +5
Zellers Leds	135

### RIGHTS ISSUES

AC Higgs N/P	75 -38
Harmony Leds N/P	3 -4
Kilwinston Ben N/P	3 -2
Larica N/P	4 +1
Lifeshell N/P	11
Marine Dev N/P	2 -1
New England N/P	2 -1
Securguard N/P	20 +5
Stonehill N/P	4
Waco N/P	4

### THIRD MARKET

1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172
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## Portfolio - Gold -

**Yesterday's claims required figure should have read -28 points**

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 30)

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
362	114	Alcohol Malt	390	279	12	52	26
363	114	Alcohol Malt	391	279	12	52	26
364	114	Alcohol Malt	392	279	12	52	26
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454	114	Alcohol Malt	482	279	12	52	26
455	114	Alcohol Malt	483	279	12	52	26
456	114	Alcohol Malt	484	279	12	52	26
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458	114	Alcohol Malt	486	279	12	52	26
459	114	Alcohol Malt	487	279	12	52	26
460	114	Alcohol Malt	488	279	12	52	26
461	114	Alcohol Malt	489	279	12	52	26
462	114	Alcohol Malt	490	279	12	52	26
463	114	Alcohol Malt	491	279	12	52	26
464	114	Alcohol Malt	492	279	12	52	26
465	114	Alcohol Malt	493	279	12	52	26
466	114	Alcohol Malt	494	279	12	52	26
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469	114	Alcohol Malt	497	279	12	52	26
470	114	Alcohol Malt	498	279	12	52	26
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472	114	Alcohol Malt	500	279	12	52	26
473	114	Alcohol Malt	501	279	12	52	26
474	114	Alcohol Malt	502	279	12	52	26
475	114	Alcohol Malt	503	279	12	52	26
476	114	Alcohol Malt	504	279	12	52	26
477	114	Alcohol Malt	505	279	12	52	26
478	114	Alcohol Malt	506	279	12	52	26
479	114	Alcohol Malt	507	279	12	52	26
480	114	Alcohol Malt	508	279	12	52	26
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538	114	Alcohol Malt	566	279	12	52	26
539	114	Alcohol Malt	567	279	12	52	26
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542	114	Alcohol Malt	570	279	12	52	26
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544	114	Alcohol Malt	572	279	12	52	26
545	114	Alcohol Malt	573	279	12	52	26
546	114	Alcohol Malt	574	279	12	52	26
547	114	Alcohol Malt	575	279	12	52	26
548	114	Alcohol Malt	576	279	12	52	26
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Chicago	270	27	27	27
Cincinnati	270	27	27	27
Cleveland	270	27	27	27
Columbus	270	27	27	27
Detroit	270	27	27	27
Indianapolis	270	27	27	27
Kansas City	270	27	27	27
Los Angeles	270	27	27	27
Memphis	270	27	27	27
Minneapolis	270	27	27	27
Mt. Vernon	270	27	27	27
New York	270	27	27	27
Omaha	270	27	27	27
Philadelphia	270	27	27	27
Pittsburgh	270	27	27	27
Portland	270	27	27	27
Rochester	270	27	27	27
Salt Lake City	270	27	27	27
San Francisco	270	27	27	27
Seattle	270	27	27	27
St. Louis	270	27	27	27
St. Paul	270	27	27	27
Tampa	270	27	27	27
Washington	270	27	27	27
Wichita	270	27	27	27

253	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
253	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851																																																																																																																																																					

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14.2	525	440	Royal (aa)	365	385	+0.5	25.3
8.3	368	199	Seaford (aa)	210	215	+4	16.4
12.5	308	185	Steel Dural	180	190	+10	12.7
33.7	618	377	Stange Hldg.	400	420	-5	9.3
12.1	12,645		Sun Alliance (aa)	895	865	-12	35.6
..	13	953	Sun Life	895	920	-2	40.4
..	497	240	Traffic Internatl	300	400	+15	5.4
61.4	434	273	Windsor Fiber (aa)	285	292	+6	15.2
	138	44	Windsor Securities	55	90	-7	11

**Investment Trusts appear on Page 31**

32.0	152	151	Baron	105	120	+1	33
101	256	257	Baron & Master	101	118	-1	34
95	256	257	Baron & Master	101	118	-1	35
26.8	290	158	Paper	176	178	+5	36
77.2	290	158	Paper	176	178	+5	37
	11	-412	Pail & Sand	273	278	+1	38
	175	341	Swiss Co	773	825	+1	39
	130	81	Satcha 10 (m)	358	365	+17	40
	176	87	Da Conv	87	90	-2	41
	478	52	Sepa	210	225	-5	42
	815	338	Strapheda	825	835	-3	43
	490	248	Smith Dam	395	400	-3	44
	655	336	Swiss (Jett)	350	450	-	45
	655	336	Swiss (Jett)	350	450	-	46
	548	150	Water	255	260	-	47
	548	150	Water	255	260	-	48
	381	280	WFRS	247	250	-4	49
	381	280	WFRS	247	250	-4	50

102.5	301	132	Barry & WGA "A"	230	240	-10	12.3
39.7	235	165	Roddy & Hawkes	215	225		
22.2	471	143	Bonni Walker	270	276	+6	8.6
20.3	337	110	Carpin	263	243	-20	5.5
14.1	337	110	Carpin	15	155	+4	8.9
12.1	291	127	Cypriot Radio	291	291		

334	67	Waco	235	245	+2	3.4
345	195	Wadsworth (J)	230	237	-7	8.2
500	252	Waltham	500	510	+10	10.7

## PROPERTY

11.8	375	171	Carlyle	186	191	+1	7.7
14.2	690	420	Fish Lesson	565	573	+1	11.0
14.4	165	73	GRA	149	151	..	1.2
26.2	185	60	Herbberger Books	160	190	..	..
15.6	106	34	John's Hldgs.	71	74	+1	1.6
7.9	355	154	Lee Int	350	360	..	4.5
16.1	182	55	Leisure Inv	115	125	+10	2.0
20.6	232	161	Mocca Leisure	182	185	+3	5.1

18.9	1.3	75	Allan Loo	85	95	+5	2.5
23.1	306	168	Artemus Socs	170	185	+	2.5
75.0	846	340	Asa	560	610	+5	5.5
24.9	415	190	Baker Harms	270	290	+20	4.5
25.7	60	17	Benzley & Hay	26	31	+4	1.5
26.3	406	276	Baton (P)	335	355	+3	18.5
40.5	720	480	Bradford	580	600	-10	15
23.2	354	172	Br Land	225	230		4.5

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158	73	23			
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TOBACCOS					
769	134	647 (m)	448	433	+1 21.0
703	476	647	138	140	0
408	226	Peppers W (m)	343	350	+30 10.6

● Ex dividend & Ex all b Forecast dividend & payment passed 1 Price at Supermarket & Dividend yield exclude a special payment 1 Pre-merger Forecast earnings & Ex other Ex right b Ex share split 1 Tax-free ... No significant change

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures Forecast earnings o Ex other f Ex rights s Ex scrip c share sold t Tax-free No significant data



## BUSINESS SUMMARY

## Unit trust investment at record £1.15bn

The Unit Trust Association said yesterday that September had been a bumper month for the industry. Net new investment was a record £1.159 billion, and the total value of funds under management reached a record £50.333 billion. The number of unit-holder accounts rose by a record 329,000, giving a total of 4,749,000. Gross sales were £1.683 billion.

However, figures for October are expected to tell a different story. The UTA estimates the current figure for the total of funds under management to now be nearer £40 billion.

## Apprentices revival call

Mr Ian MacLaurin (right), the chairman of Tesco, yesterday called for apprentice schemes to be revived as a means of finding work for school leavers. They were regarded by some as "an educational misfit, yet they worked in the past and could work in the future," he said at the Associated Examining Board annual awards.



## Warner Howard talks

Warner Howard, which supplies commercial laundry systems and warm air hand dryers, is negotiating to buy a complementary business only months after going public.

The company said yesterday that increasing emphasis on new rental business had lifted margins and helped boost pretax profits from £1.21 million to £1.6 million in the half year to August on turnover of £6.31 million. There is an interim dividend of 0.93p. Warner Howard said it has introduced new products, some of which are particularly suited for renting to local authorities.

## Crest division sold for £1m Property firm issue flops

Crest Nicholson, the property and construction group, has sold its electronic interests to Oglesby & Butler for £1.03 million. The annual pretax profits of the businesses being sold were £7,000 to end-October 1986. Net tangible assets at that date were £1.16 million. The consideration will be payable in cash.

Allied London Properties' £40 million rights issue was another casualty of the stock market collapse. Almost half the convertible preference shares on offer have been left with underwriters. The issue, announced on September 10, attracted acceptances in respect of only 55.5 per cent of the new shares.

## Viking up at halftime

Viking Resources Trust reports profits up from £343,000 to £460,000 in the six months to end-September. The company is repeating the interim dividend at 0.55p a share. More significant, however, has been the doubling of the group's investment in American oil and gas producing fields, from £8.9 million to £17.9 million.

This continued acquisition policy has attracted Mr Ron Brierley and Mr Alan Bond as substantial shareholders. The board says the value of gas will experience "a considerable uplift" in the coming years and that Viking will benefit substantially. The trust's net asset value is up from 51p to 77.8p, reflecting continued stability in oil prices.

## Proceeds from National Bus estimated at £306m

Proceeds from the sale of the National Bus Company are expected to be three times the original estimate, Mr Rodney Lund, the chairman, said yesterday.

With most of the 72 subsidiaries sold, the disposal programme should be completed by next March - almost 12 months ahead of schedule.

Mr Lund, presenting the company's report and accounts for the 15 months to the end of March 1987, said it was estimated that the eventual net sales proceeds would be £306 million.

This figure was well in excess of the group's asset

value and contrasted with early speculation of proceeds between £80 million and £100 million.

The success of the NBC disposal programme means the Government should receive more than £80 million extra from the proceeds than expected after outstanding loans and debts are repaid.

The privatization of NBC, whose subsidiaries include National Express, City of Oxford Motor Services and Southdown, was approved by the Government in May last year.

The Government, however, decided the company should

be privatized not as one unit but as separate local subsidiaries.

By October 1, 45 of the 72 subsidiaries had been sold with the whole or a majority shareholding going to the management and/or employees in 27 instances.

Mr Lund said the selling-off of the company had led to "more than a few complications" but he paid tribute to local managements for their hard work.

One consequence of the privatization is that Victoria Coach Station in London, will be sold to London Regional Transport.

## Pressac soars 64% to £2.8m

By Alison Eadie

Pretax profits at Pressac Holdings, the electro-mechanical component manufacturer and precision engineer, were 64.3 per cent higher at £2.8 million in the year to end-July, on turnover up 24.9 per cent at £30 million.

Sales showed good growth in telecommunications, television, automotive and specialist engineering. Gross profit rose 33 per cent as margins improved. Overheads were contained and interest payable

fell because of good cash generation.

Pressac ended the year with cash of £730,000 against a break-even position the previous year. It also spent £2.6 million on capital projects during the year.

Overseas sales rose to £7 million in turnover. The United States showed a particularly strong performance, with good demand for Pressac's printed circuits for car dashboards. The company

supplies Ford in the with 50 per cent of its printed circuits, Chrysler with nearly 50 per cent and General Motors with 20 per cent.

The new year has commenced well, the company said, and it has experienced good growth in all areas. The company has just won a new order from British Telecom's network division.

The total dividend was raised to 3.125p from 2.5p.

## Caution as trade in tin restarts

By Colin Narborough

Tin futures, trading for the first time since the collapse of the world tin market two years ago, yesterday got off to an understandably cautious start on the Kuala Lumpur Commodity Exchange.

Since the failure of the International Tin Council's buffer stock in October 1985, which triggered a global crisis for the metal and left a £900 million trail of bad debts, there has been no organized market offering hedging facilities for tin.

The London Metal Exchange, the world's premier metal market, responded to the LTC collapse by suspending dealing in the metal. But Mr Christopher Green, the LME chairman earlier this month said London would take a fresh look at several contracts, including tin.

The modest 145 tonnes of turnover in tin futures on the KLCE was hailed by dealers as good for the first day, especially given the prevailing state of the markets. November tin closed at 684 cents a kilo.

The tin mining industry in Malaysia, the world's biggest producer, welcomed the dollar-denominated futures contract as a useful instrument for helping plan production.

## Microfilm raises dividend by 50%

Microfilm Reprographics is paying a final dividend of 2p, making 3p (2p), for the year to June 30. It is also proposing a one-for-three scrip issue. Pretax profit rose from £1.81 million to £2.1 million on turnover of £11.47 million (£8.74 million). Earnings per share were 10.2p (9.7p). The board reports that the level of business throughout the group has continued to increase.

Sales and profits for the first two months of the current year are running ahead of the comparable period for last year.

Amercour Energy No interim dividend is being paid for the first half of this year by Amercour Energy. On turnover of £516,000 (£26,000), the company made a pretax profit of £55,000 (loss £75,000). Earnings per share were 0.79p (1.30p loss).

## OK Bazaars

OK Bazaars (1929) of South Africa is paying an interim dividend of 24 cents (21 cents) for the half-year to September 30. Pretax profit reached R11.66 million (£3.41 million), against R9.33 million on sales of R1,290.63 million (£1,103.87 million). Earnings per share were 44 cents (35 cents).

## £3.3m expansion

The Alumas Group announces a capital spending programme of £3.3 million during the current year. The money will give a big boost to the group's key manufacturing facility and

allow production of a new range of radiators. Further expenditure will go on land for planned developments and on upgrading equipment. The £3.3 million will come from existing cash resources.

## Interim dividend

City of Oxford Investment Trust is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 0.6p for the six months to June 30. Pretax revenue slipped to £299,458 (£306,199). This year there is an extraordinary dividend of £108,375 (nil). Earnings per share, before the extraordinary dividend, were 1.07p (1.06p) and after were 0.55p (1.06p).

## Unifycorp Trust

A total dividend of 2.75p (2.66p, adjusted) is being paid for the year to September 30 by Unifycorp Trust. Pretax profit fell to £606,000 (£816,000). There is no extraordinary dividend this year (£81,000). Earnings per share, before extraordinary items, were 3.36p (4.03p, adjusted) and after were 3.36p (3.40p, adjusted).

## Ensign Trust

A final dividend of 0.7p is being paid by Ensign Trust on January 22. This makes a total of 1p (0.9p) for the year to September 30. The board also proposes to pay an interim dividend of 0.3p for the current year. Profit, before tax and extraordinary items, reached £4.8 million (£4.2 million). There is no extraordinary dividend this time (against £1.38 million). Earnings per share, before extraordinary items, were 1.04p (1.07p) and after 1.04p (0.58p).

## APPOINTMENTS

## New directors at Guinness Mahon

Guinness Mahon: Mr Julian Paul becomes a director of the bank. Ms Lachuda Boulton is named a director, corporate finance. Ms Sally Goodsell an assistant director. Mr Tony Allen an assistant director and Mr Brian Bishop an assistant director, operations division.

Selfridges: Miss Jennifer Edwards becomes merchandise director.

CC&P Communications: Mr Mark Gibson has been appointed managing director.

Western Capital Bank: Dr Michael Flynn becomes a director.

Payne Packaging: Mr Mike Illsley has been appointed managing director.

Dewey Warren & Co: Mr

Anthony Newnham becomes a managing director.

Walker Martin & Co: Mr Roger Duncan and Mr Richard Underwood join the partnership.

Radio Electrical and Television Retailers' Association: Mr Peter Fletcher has been appointed president.

Lewis Woolf Gright: Mr Mike Jackson joins the board as UK and European sales director.

Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers: Mr John Bradbury becomes a director.

Telford Development Corporation: Mr Frank Jones has been appointed chairman. Mrs Elizabeth Holt becomes deputy chairman.



Jennifer Edwards: Selfridges merchandise director

Rohan Designs: Ms Sheila Stone joins the board.

Abelscot Group: Mr Andrew Irvin has been appointed group finance director.

Technitron: Mr D Leighton Davies becomes a non-executive director.

Tobacco Advisory Council: Mr WC Owen becomes chief executive, from next month.

Control Data (UK): Mr Dennis Mahoney becomes managing director and Mr John Marsh operations director, sales.

Timuss Sainer & Webb: Professor John Adams becomes director, training and education.

Coopers & Lybrand: Mr David Maxwell has been appointed partner-in-charge, Birmingham.

Celtach: Dr Gwyn Humphreys becomes director, academic liaison.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000
Abbey 286	CU 2,648	Laporte 50	Royal Bank 1,053
AB-Lyons 9,226	Cons Gold 969	LAG 680	Royal Ind 1,008
Amstar 2,344	Consolid 913	Lloyds 3,321	Savoy 2,988
ASDA 2,434	Courts 1,204	Louth 4,979	Sainsbury 1,561
AS Foods 256	Dageny 854	Lucas 883	Seas 4,128
Ayrt 5,983	Dea 5,532	Magnat 637	Sears 2,048
BAA 6,329	Dow 3,311	MMS 4,813	Seagrow 698
BET 508	ECC 188	Morrell Comm 705	Shell 2,249
BTH 2,229	Enterprise 20	MEPC 685	Shire 1,355
BAT 3,701	Ferranti 3,376	Metal Box 1,075	STC 8,827
Bass 420	Fisons 3,892	Midwest 2,154	Stan Chart 548
Beecham 2,268	Gen Acc 253	NadWest 4,705	Stantec 1,159
Besser 550	GEC 12,832	Nest 1,285	Star Alliance 436
BICC 532	Globe 3,056	Nth Food 438	T & N 247
Blue Circle 1,332	Granada 884	P&O 1,658	Tarmac 1,488
BOC 2,206	Grand Met 2,829	Pearl 441	Tate & Lyle 280
Boots 4,131	GUS A 410	Pfizer 223	Tesco 5,227
BPE 1,757	GPE 376	Plessey 14,289	Thorn EM 2,187
Br Aero 5,185	GDA 1,469	Procter & Gamble 3,637	Thorn Tele 2,637
Br Airways 8,896	Guinness 5,732	Racal 2,222	Thy 5,967
Br Comm 781	Hamm A 61	Rik Howe 421	Ugarmar 715
Br Gas 17,182	Hendon 12,980	Rank 532	Unigate 658
Br Petrol 21,335	Hewlett 690	RMC 276	Unilever 2,263
Br Telecom 12,305	Hewlett 1,867	Reid 2,004	United B 1,135
Britol 2,981	Holloway 3,581	Reed 7,737	Unid News 1,258
Bristol 3,962	ICI 2,882	Reid 7,737	Unicom 2,181
Burnish 321	ICI 2,882	RMC Gp 359	Whitford 3,308
Burns 3,000	Jaguar 2,502	RTZ 1,570	Wills Fab 994
C&W 9,041	Lamco 1,135	R-Royce 15,894	Woolworth 2,281
Cadbury 5,368	Ladbroke 940	Rothmans 538	
Cons 2,212	Land Sec 2,033	Rowntree 728	

Figures page 28

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**FOREIGN EXCHANGES**

\* Sterling index compared with 1975 was same at 74.1 (day's range 74.0-74.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	OTHER STERLING RATES
<p>STERLING SPOT: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 3 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 6 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 9 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 12 MONTHS: 74.1</p>	<p>STERLING 15 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 18 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 21 MONTHS: 74.1</p> <p>STERLING 24 MONTHS: 74.1</p>

Market rates for October 27					Argentina's exports	
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months		
New York	1.6850-1.6860	1.6850-1.6850	0.33-0.34p	1.30-1.32p	Brazil's exports	6.8700-6.9300
London	2.2200-2.2210	2.2200-2.2200	11-12p	1.40-1.42p	Australia dollar	1.6150-1.6155
Amsterdam	3.6847-3.7472	3.6847-3.7472	11-12p	1.35-1.37p	Brazil cruzeiro *	92.000-92.005
Frankfurt	2.2200-2.2210	2.2200-2.2200	11-12p	1.40-1.42p	India rupee	1.2475-1.2575
Paris	1.6850-1.6860	1.6850-1.6850	0.33-0.34p	1.30-1.32p	Hong Kong dollar	1.2475-1.2575
11p-11:15a						1.2475-1.2575
11:15a-11:30a						1.2475-1.2575
11:30a-11:45a						1.2475-1.2575
11:45a-12:00p						1.2475-1.2575
12:00p-12:15p						1.2475-1.2575
12:15p-12:30p						1.2475-1.2575
12:30p-12:45p						1.2475-1.2575
12:45p-1:00p						1.2475-1.2575
1:00p-1:15p						1.2475-1.2575
1:15p-1:30p						1.2475-1.2575
1:30p-1:45p						1.2475-1.2575
1:45p-2:00p						1.2475-1.2575
2:00p-2:15p						1.2475-1.2575
2:15p-2:30p						1.2475-1.2575
2:30p-2:45p						1.2475-1.2575
2:45p-3:00p						1.2475-1.2575
3:00p-3:15p						1.2475-1.2575
3:15p-3:30p						1.2475-1.2575
3:30p-3:45p						1.2475-1.2575
3:45p-4:00p						1.2475-1.2575
4:00p-4:15p						1.2475-1.2575
4:15p-4:30p						1.2475-1.2575
4:30p-4:45p						1.2475-1.2575
4:45p-5:00p						1.2475-1.2575
5:00p-5:15p						1.2475-1.2575
5:15p-5:30p						1.2475-1.2575
5:30p-5:45p						1.2475-1.2575
5:45p-6:00p						1.2475-1.2575
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6:30p-6:45p						1.2475-1.2575
6:45p-7:00p						1.2475-1.2575
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7:15p-7:30p						1.2475-1.2575
7:30p-7:45p						1.2475-1.2575
7:45p-8:00p						1.2475-1.2575
8:00p-8:15p						1.2475-1.2575
8:15p-8:30p						1.2475-1.2575
8:30p-8:45p						1.2475-1.2575
8:45p-9:00p						1.2475-1.2575
9:00p-9:15p						1.2475-1.2575
9:15p-9:30p						1.2475-1.2575
9:30p-9:45p						1.2475-1.2575
9:45p-10:00p						1.2475-1.2575
10:00p-10:15p						1.2475-1.2575
10:15p-10:30p						1.2475-1.2575
10:30p-10:45p						1.2475-1.2575
10:45p-11:00p						1.2475-1.2575
11:00p-11:15p						1.2475-1.2575
11:15p-11:30p						1.2475-1.2575
11:30p-11:45p						1.2475-1.2575
11:45p-12:00a						1.2475-1.2575
12:00a-12:15a						1.2475-1.2575
12:15a-12:30a						1.2475-1.2575
12:30a-12:45a						1.2475-1.2575
12:45a-1:00a						1.2475-1.2575
Premium = 2.0000-2.0000					U.S. exports	
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DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
Ireland	1.5060-1.5090	Denmark	8.2650-8.3100
Singapore	2.0775-2.0785	W Germany	1.7725-1.7732
Switzerland	2.5125-2.5275	Netherlands	1.4825-1.5275
Australia	2.7005-2.7015	France	1.4945-1.5955
Canada	1.0186-1.0175	Sweden	8.9820-8.9470
Japan	1.6225-1.6275	Japan	142.00-142.10
Norway	5.5525-5.5575		
		Italy	1281.2-1282.2
		Belgium (Com)	36.96-37.01
		Hong Kong	7.8000-7.8900
		Portugal	204.50-205.00
		Spain	115.10-115.20
		Austria	12.42-12.44

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank ROPEX and Exel.

## MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 9%    France Hse 10%    Dollar CDs (%)  
 Discount Market Loans %    1 mth: 7.20-7.15    3 mth: 7.75-7.70    6 mth: 7.85-7.80  
 Overnight High: 9% Low 6 Week T-bill: 9%    12 mth: 8.15-8.10

## EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

[illegible]

day: 2% 7 day: 9% 1 mth: 9%  
mth: 9 6 mth: 9 12 mth: 9-10  
Call: 34-24

**Local Authority Bonds (%)**  
mth: 10-9% 2 mth: 10%-9% 3 mth: 10%-9%  
mth: 10%-10% 9 mth: 10%-10% 12 mth: 10%-10%

**Fixed Rate Starting Expd. Finance. Make-up day:**  
August 28, 1987. Agreed rates September 28, 1987 to  
October 25, 1987. Scheme I: 11-24 per cent. Schemes II  
& III: 11-31 per cent. Reference rate: August 3, 1987 to  
August 28, 1987. Scheme IV: 10,037 per cent.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Sterling					
Dec 87	90.85	91.00	90.78	90.94	16,879
Mar 88	90.90	90.96	90.76	90.88	1785
Previous open interest					16,879
US Treasury Bond					
Dec 87	87-10	87-10	86-17	87-05	15,763
Mar 88	NT				13937
Previous open interest					15,763

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90.86	90.88	90.90	90.92	90.94	90.96	90.98	91.00	91.02	91.04	91.06	91.08	91.10	91.12	91.14	91.16	91.18	91.20	91.22	91.24	91.26	91.28	91.30	91.32	91.34	91.36	91.38	91.40	91.42	91.44	91.46	91.48	91.50	91.52	91.54	91.56	91.58	91.60	91.62	91.64	91.66	91.68	91.70	91.72	91.74	91.76	91.78	91.80	91.82	91.84	91.86	91.88	91.90	91.92	91.94	91.96	91.98	92.00	92.02	92.04	92.06	92.08	92.10	92.12	92.14	92.16	92.18	92.20	92.22	92.24	92.26	92.28	92.30	92.32	92.34	92.36	92.38	92.40	92.42	92.44	92.46	92.48	92.50	92.52	92.54	92.56	92.58	92.60	92.62	92.64	92.66	92.68	92.70	92.72	92.74	92.76	92.78	92.80	92.82	92.84	92.86	92.88	92.90	92.92	92.94	92.96	92.98	93.00	93.02	93.04	93.06	93.08	93.10	93.12	93.14	93.16	93.18	93.20	93.22	93.24	93.26	93.28	93.30	93.32	93.34	93.36	93.38	93.40	93.42	93.44	93.46	93.48	93.50	93.52	93.54	93.56	93.58	93.60	93.62	93.64	93.66	93.68	93.70	93.72	93.74	93.76	93.78	93.80	93.82	93.84	93.86	93.88	93.90	93.92	93.94	93.96	93.98	94.00	94.02	94.04	94.06	94.08	94.10	94.12	94.14	94.16	94.18	94.20	94.22	94.24	94.26	94.28	94.30	94.32	94.34	94.36	94.38	94.40	94.42	94.44	94.46	94.48	94.50	94.52	94.54	94.56	94.58	94.60	94.62	94.64	94.66	94.68	94.70	94.72	94.74	94.76	94.78	94.80	94.82	94.84	94.86	94.88	94.90	94.92	94.94	94.96	94.98	95.00	95.02	95.04	95.06	95.08	95.10	95.12	95.14	95.16	95.18	95.20	95.22	95.24	95.26	95.28	95.30	95.32	95.34	95.36	95.38	95.40	95.42	95.44	95.46	95.48	95.50	95.52	95.54	95.56	95.58	95.60	95.62	95.64	95.66	95.68	95.70	95.72	95.74	95.76	95.78	95.80	95.82	95.84	95.86	95.88	95.90	95.92	95.94	95.96	95.98	96.00	96.02	96.04	96.06	96.08	96.10	96.12	96.14	96.16	96.18	96.20	96.22	96.24	96.26	96.28	96.30	96.32	96.34	96.36	96.38	96.40	96.42	96.44	96.46	96.48	96.50	96.52	96.54	96.56	96.58	96.60	96.62	96.64	96.66	96.68	96.70	96.72	96.74	96.76	96.78	96.80	96.82	96.84	96.86	96.88	96.90	96.92	96.94	96.96	96.98	97.00	97.02	97.04	97.06	97.08	97.10	97.12	97.14	97.16	97.18	97.20	97.22	97.24	97.26	97.28	97.30	97.32	97.34	97.36	97.38	97.40	97.42	97.44	97.46	97.48	97.50	97.52	97.54	97.56	97.58	97.60	97.62	97.64	97.66	97.68	97.70	97.72	97.74	97.76	97.78	97.80	97.82	97.84	97.86	97.88	97.90	97.92	97.94	97.96	97.98	98.00	98.02	98.04	98.06	98.08	98.10	98.12	98.14	98.16	98.18	98.20	98.22	98.24	98.26	98.28	98.30	98.32	98.34	98.36	98.38	98.40	98.42	98.44	98.46	98.48	98.50	98.52	98.54	98.56	98.58	98.60	98.62	98.64	98.66	98.68	98.70	98.72	98.74	98.76	98.78	98.80	98.82	98.84	98.86	98.88	98.90	98.92	98.94	98.96	98.98	99.00	99.02
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COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA

G W Joyman

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Official prices/quotations maintained close

Printed 11-11

Products	Dec 1149-149	Sep 1243-241	(Change)	Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone
May 1182-181	Dec 2658-267		Copper Cde A	1206.0-1210.0	1113.0-1115.0	234715	Easier
May 1205-204	Mar 1291-290		Copper Stand	1165.0-1176.0	1100.0-1110.0	Nil	Quiet
Jul 1226-223	May 2852		Lead	353.0-354.0	347.50-348.00	47575	Steady
COFFEE	G W Johnson		Gr N Hi Gde	458.00-458.50	462.00-463.00	36800	Steadier
Nov 1295-294	Jul 1265-264		Silver Lead	734.00-735.00	748.00-751.00	15	Quiet
Jan 1325-328	Sep 1415-413		Silver Seal	748.00-753.00	748.00-751.00	Nil	Quiet
Mar 1349-346	Nov 1430-410						

[illegible]

	Mt	Th	Op	Clo	(/kg hr)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
Nv 107.70 Jn 110.60 Mr 112.50					G8 (P)	-73.29	773.02	94.95
Nv 114.75 Jr 117.00 Sp 102.50					Eng (-)	+0.58	+4.70	+1.63
BARLEY clove (P) 50					Eng/Wal (%)	+4.7	+0.9	-2.5
Nv 104.00 Jn 106.50 Mr 108.65					Eng/Wal (-)	73.7	173.93	93.58
Nv 110.15 Jn unq.					England (+/-)	-1.4	+10.55	+8.2
Soyabean					Scotland	25.21	70.29	
Dec 134.0-133.0 Aug 128.0-24.5								
Feb 135.0-136.0 Apr 130.0-130.0								

[illegible][illegible]

pany.

OMPARE



## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Television's other face

## OPINION

David Graham

Five years ago, with brilliance and élan, Jeremy Isaacs launched Channel 4 and with it a new production sector: the independents.

They have produced an enormous range of material, from clever, enjoyable entertainment like *Treasure Hunt* to innovative comedy, from documentaries to tiny five-minute units of television that hadn't existed before. C4 liberated a new kind of political television which opinion was freely explored.

Some programmes went over the top and some innovations were blind alleys; but none the less it has been a heady period. *Film on Four* was a very solid achievement. New sports were brought to the screen. The Government noticed what was happening and is now committed to building a television industry around independent production.

Television, like any other industry, has a duty to the economy — to be efficient. Jeremy Isaacs's gains lie in his desire to translate currents of contemporary intellectual and artistic life on to the screen. But what happens to the channel now that its presiding genius is leaving? Already, its schedules are looking uncertain. It has a feel of the Seventies. Politically, it still somehow assumes the view that the left is nice but the right is nasty. Its current affairs content has been sparky in parts, dull in others. Its view of the world is ludicrously limited and tendentious. The Third World consists of Nicaragua, and a banana plantation where people are being exploited.

Most of the Channel British-made comedy series have been ponderous. Contemporary drama policy has been uncertain, one of its most successful series, *The Price*, having been regarded as a bit too popular. Its very funding is old-fashioned, tied as it is to the ITV companies. In short, it needs a new institutional structure and programme policy.

The idea that C4 should be separated from ITV has had wide assent, but then the hard questions begin. Should the Government fund it directly, to preserve its remit of innovation and the serving of minorities? That seems out of the question. . . .

And anyway, what are "minorities"? Should it sell its own advertising in a competitive market, regulated by the IBA? No other channel has combined the sale of advertising as its sole source of revenue with small-audience programmes.

Perhaps the best solution would be to persuade some private investors with deep pockets — that a narrowcast channel which sells advertising could find a new broadcasting niche and make money. Channel 4 could then be turned into some kind of trust.

The reason for hope is that clustered in the C4 audience are the young people — bright, un-sentimental but egalitarian, déclassé — who represent a new socio-economic generation. These people may have voted Labour once but the Labour Party is moving much too slowly for them (indeed, Channel 4 has found it hard to come to terms with the revival of liberal ideas that has spread across the world and which C4 seems to prefer to call "Thatcherism"). Many of this generation are making a lot of money, but their outlook follows no established pattern. Society is watching this space.

Some of C4's faults come from a desire to meet intellectual challenges of the Seventies. They should not detract from C4's great achievement: that unlike the American public broadcasting system, it has not merely accommodated the tastes of middle-aged community leaders.

David Graham is chief executive of the Diverse Group, which has produced such series as *Diverse Reports* and *Election Briefs for Channel 4*.

When the Government's offer of shares in British Petroleum closes at 10 o'clock this morning, it will, courtesy of its underwriters, have raised £7.2 billion from the issue — even if not a single share is bought by the public. But the failure to attract those small investors will focus attention as never before on how much it costs to sell privatization.

Generally the Government appoints an advertising agency and a PR firm to handle its flotations. The ambitious corporate communications firm Dewe Rogerson did not endear itself to its rivals by building on success with TSB, British Gas, Britoil and British Telecom to grab both halves of the BP package.

If everything had gone according to plan, the Government would have raised its £7.8 billion from six million shareholders at a cost of around £20 million in advertising — £3.30 per applicant or £390 in revenue for every pound spent. But as Tony Carlisle, deputy chairman of Dewe Rogerson, puts it, last week's share price plunge "totally changed the playing field".

It means that no more than 200,000 new shareholders are likely to apply, fewer than any issue since British Telecom in November 1984. If so, Dewe Rogerson will have spent £100 per applicant, significantly more than has become the norm for government privatization issues.

## The privatization programme has cost more than £100 million in PR and advertising. Was it money well spent? Andrew Lycett reports

## BEING PART OF IT: THE CAMPAIGNS AND THE COSTS

Date of issue	Amount	Inquiries pre flotation	Share applications	Ad agency	PR agency	Advertising cost	Cost per applicant
British Telecom	Nov 84 £4bn	1,400,000	2,300,000	Dorlands	Dewe Rogerson	£23m	£10.00
British Aerospace*	May 85 £550m	c.160,000	260,000	Davidson Pearce	Streets Financial	£2.3m	£8.80
Britoil*	Aug 85 £450m	200,000	450,000	Dewe Rogerson	Dewe Rogerson	£3.5m	£7.80
Cable & Wireless*	Dec 85 £930m	no register	218,000	CDP	none	£3.5m	£18.00
British Gas	Dec 86 £5.4bn	7,500,000	4,400,000	Young & Rubicam	Dewe Rogerson	£26m	£5.90
TSB	Sept 86 £1.3bn	3,300,000	5,000,000	Dewe Rogerson	Dewe Rogerson	£7m	£2.30
British Airways	Feb 87 £900m	800,000	1,100,000	Allen Brady Marsh	VPI & Broad St	£10.3	£9.40
Rolls-Royce	May 87 £1.4bn	800,000	2,000,000	CDP	VPI	£3.5m	£1.75
British Airports Authority	July 87 £1.2bn	1,100,000	2,200,000	J.W. Thompson	VPI, Chs Barker	£4.5m	£2.00
British Petroleum	Oct 87 £7.2bn	6,250,000	?	Dewe Rogerson	Dewe Rogerson	£20m	?

\* 2nd tranche \* 3rd tranche

Advertising cost per applicant (acpa) is a reliable, if somewhat crude, indicator of effectiveness. Apart from an aberration with the third tranche of Cable and Wireless in December 1985, costs have edged steadily downwards since British Telecom (an acpa of £10). The most successful was in May this year when Collet Dickinson Pearce (as the advertising agency) and Vain Pollen International (VPI) as the public relations

firm managed to attract 2 million applications for an outlay of £3.5 million (an acpa of £1.75).

Even if it had attracted six million applicants, BP's acpa would have been significantly higher at £3.30. David McLaren, managing director of Collet Dickinson Pearce (CDP), says he could have done the campaign for a fifth of that price.

He denies this is sour grapes (his company lost to Dewe

Rogerson after reaching a shortlist in May). And he believes the £26 million spent on British Gas's flotation was "fantastic", pointing out that a high-spending washing powder such as Ariel spends only £9 million a year on the media.

He thinks that good value was provided at Cable and Wireless, where despite the high acpa, the shares enjoyed only a tiny 1 per cent premium in the market on the day of

issue. This, McLaren suggests, meant his company had done its homework right, researching how many people would take up the offer and presenting this information to the Treasury to allow it to set the correct price.

Angus Maitland, director of VPI, also believes it is an important part of the marketing of an issue to get the price right. He refers to a model developed with MORI "predicting propensity to

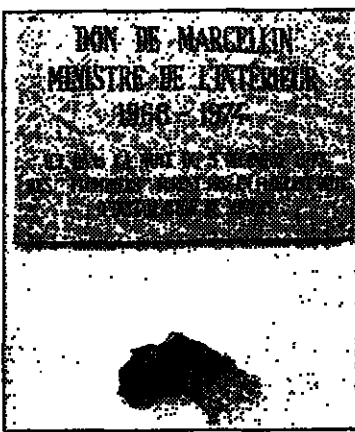
buy". "If twice as much had been spent on advertising BAA," he says, "and the premium had been higher, it would not have been a successful issue."

But Tony Carlisle comes at the problem from a different perspective. His objective is "creating a perception of scarcity" for an issue, and he sees a premium as a practical demonstration of success — defined as "everyone believing that, when an offer is made, there is much more demand than supply".

His thinking was first applied to the BT issue. He needed to do more than just sell the issue — he had to create a new share-owning class, reaching people who had never owned shares before. It was therefore a big-budget operation. By presenting BT as a company worth investing in, and researching the results, he was able to target eight million people who were interested. "We then set about creating a national event, trying to inform rather than doing a hard sell," Dewe Rogerson's shared a Share Information Office, generally establishing the guidelines for subsequent issues.

As for BP, he says, "We have done it with a substantially lower budget and over a shorter period than British Gas. I don't think attitudes to BP or to wider share ownership have changed as a result of the crash. Only the numbers who will come into the BP issue have changed."

## Another gem of a scoop



Battle honour: the plaque and the hole in the wall left when French "plumbers" tried to bug Le Canard

There is no doubt which room has pride of place at Le Canard enchaîné. It is the "salle des micros". But when Claude Angeli, joint editor-in-chief of the French satirical weekly, offered to show it to me, I thought at first he was probably referring to some kind of hi-tech news room.

The reality was more interesting. We entered the nearest room in the Canard's studiously scruffy offices and I was shown the "trou", the paper's best preserved battle scar — a hole in the wall with a plaque over it, which translates as "Gift of Marcelin, Minister of the Interior

## Le Canard enchaîné

## How France's Canard is keeping in the swim

1968-1974. Here, on the night of December 3, 1973, "plumbers" were caught red-handed installing microphones ("micros").

France's mini-Watergate is just

one of the dozens of scandals flushed out by the Canard during its 72 years of publication. Angeli — tall and angular, — reeks off some of the others. The Giscard diamond affair in 1979 is the best known.

The latest scoop was last week when it revealed the alleged involvement of French Minister of Justice Albin Chalandon in the Chaumet jewellery business, which collapsed last June.

Angeli says his stories are not, as is popularly believed, based on leaked documents by a French bureaucracy chronically split along political lines. The journalists find

their own stories; but then they have more motivation than most — 45 of them own the paper lock, stock and barrel.

They do not take dividends, but they pay themselves well. The lowest salary for a journalist is around £2,000 a month. There are no outside shareholders. The Canard does not even take advertising. It relies entirely on sales.

Circulation is beginning to rise again after a drop to around 350,000 copies a week in 1985. Last year it was up to 400,000 again. Recently, it was forced to raise its cover price from 5F50 to 6F. Announcing this increase it noted: "Our readers will know the price of the Canard's independence."

Michael Duncan

## Changing the face of Boots

## ASSISTANT MARKETING MANAGER (Merchandising) circa £13,000

It will take a rare skill to make Boots' Beauty Departments better, that is for certain.

What is also certain is that the person who fulfils our expectations will be able to apply their considerable merchandising experience to a wide range of beauty products, whether cosmetics or perfume, men's fragrance, sun-tanning products or swimming costumes, to name but a few.

Reporting to the Marketing Manager, you will be involved in every aspect of enhancing our in-store Beauty Area. Your creative frame of mind will be invaluable in managing the design and installation of display furniture and fittings, with a practical approach to optimising use of limited space. Your eye for detail will allow you to make a positive contribution to

recommendation and implementation of effective point of sale displays.

Simply, with a combination of skills, experience and strength of character, you will be involved in changing the face of Boots.

This exciting position demands that you will be a graduate with around four years' relevant marketing experience, biased towards merchandising but giving you expertise across the full marketing mix.

For this Nottingham based position we offer an attractive salary and all the benefits you would expect from a major, blue-chip company, including profit sharing, staff discount and pension schemes. A generous relocation allowance is available, where appropriate, to help you move to this attractive East Midlands city.

If you believe you have the skills and commitment to meet this challenge, write with full c.v., stating salary details to Barbara Gouldthorp, Recruitment Officer, The Boots Company PLC, Head Office, Nottingham NG2 3AA. Tel. (0602) 592174.



## Publicity Officer

The Central Office of Information — the British Government's publicity organisation — has a vacancy for a Media Training Officer.

The successful candidate will join the department's Information Studies Unit to plan, manage and act as Lecturer for a wide range of publicity training courses for officials of overseas governments, UK Information staff and Diplomatic Service Officers.

Heshe must have experience in one or more communication skills, journalism, publication production, public relations etc. and knowledge of overseas media would be an advantage.

Candidates should be effective organisers, able to plan well ahead, and convey their media expertise to a wide variety of course members of varying backgrounds and nationalities.

The successful candidate will join the Government Information Service with opportunities for career development and promotion in Government departments and agencies mainly in London.

The post is graded Information Officer. Salary scale £11,619 to £13,970 (including Inner London Weighting). Starting salary depends on experience and qualifications.

Please send a postcard for an application form to:

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

Miss C. Richards, HR 827, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU quoting Ref No 457/NTC/87. The closing date for returned forms is 13 November 1987.

The Civil Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

## Public Relations Officer

PO 5/6 £16,368 - £18,768 (£16,740 - £19,194 w/e/t 1/2/87)

This newly established post is based at County Hall in the Clerk and Chief Executive's Department. We are looking for someone with the necessary expertise to prepare and implement a public relations strategy which will not only improve communications with the media and the public but also increase staff awareness of their own role in promoting a positive image for the Authority. Responsibilities will include advising and assisting Chief Officers and co-ordinating all the Council's public relations activities, in particular the issue of press releases and the production and promotion of publicity material.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a high level of ability and achievement. Previous public relations experience and a proven record of success in that field are essential, together with an appreciation of, and commitment to, the services provided by local government.

Generous relocation expenses are available in approved cases. For further details and an application form please contact Pat Crowson on Truro (0872) 74282, extension 2108, or write to her at County Hall, Trevelyan Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY.

Closing date: 16th November 1987.



CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL

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Evenings and weekends, telephone (0491) 36351.

CREATIVE Marketing Limited

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You would be responsible for detailed research and analysis of chosen themes, planning conference programmes and co-ordinating speakers.

A graduate aged between 25-40 is preferred. Some knowledge of financial services is essential. A background in information science, librarianship, investment analysis or financial journalism could be relevant.

Starting salary would be up to £17,000 with scope for improvement.

Please write enclosing CV to Westminster and City Programmes, 231 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QU.

## Managing Director

for Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd, the well-known and highly regarded religious book-publishing house. The M.D., in addition to being the Company's chief executive, will also function as Marketing Director for the specialist publisher, which will very shortly become a Common Ownership company, giving all its staff a formal stake in its continuing growth and prosperity.

Candidates must have successful marketing and/or sales managerial experience in a publishing or other media environment, while considerable general management ability and business acumen are also necessary. Obviously in the context sympathy with, if not commitment to, the Christian faith is highly desirable.

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Please write with c.v. or telephone in complete confidence to Roger Stacey or Deborah Risa at:

astron APPOINTMENTS LIMITED

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Your proven success in sales, marketing flair, self-motivation and drive will be rewarded by an attractive package including a basic salary with an escalating commission agreement operating above a minimum target figure, company car and a comprehensive pension scheme after a period of satisfactory service.

Women are encouraged to apply.

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Sales Director, Irwin Technical Ltd, 10-18 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4ST

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An international sales and marketing company has vacancies for intelligent and articulate sales people with the personality, drive and ability to succeed.

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## ART CONSULTANT

UK's leading supplier of framed pictures to the hotel and leisure industries requires an enthusiastic and self-motivated Sales person to work from their West End showroom as a member of a young and aggressive sales team.

Experience in the interior design field, an appreciation of art and picture framing essential. Salary by negotiation.

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Tel: 01-636 5244



## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Midwife with a blue pen

Six people will feel "like midwives at a baby show" while waiting for tomorrow night's Booker prize-winner to be announced. They are not the six short-listed authors, who will be displaying various versions of the literary sang-froid which is customary on these occasions. They are the publishers' editors, a relatively unsung tribe, whose task is to ease the birth of books and deliver them into the outside world.

There is no set formula for the relationship. At one extreme there are the writers who need to have books dragged out of them. Douglas Adams (*Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*) is currently the most famous example of one of these. His recent editor, Sonny Mehta of Pan, was forced into hiring a hotel suite and standing over him in order to make him finish a book.

At the other extreme there is Iris Murdoch, making her fifth appearance on the shortlist this year, with her 23rd novel, *The Book and the Brotherhood*. She writes them in long-hand in exercise books. The function of her editor (currently Carmen Calli, head of Chatto and Windus) is to arrange for them to be typed into typescript and returned to the author for checking. Not a suggestion may be made, a character queried, a comma altered, or a semi-colon challenged.

In between these extremes are varying degrees of co-operation, criticism and sympathy. Many relationships endure through a whole lifetime of literary labour. The recent takeovers and mass resignations which have swept through book publishing have threatened to rupture many of these long-lasting partnerships. Some authors have followed their editors to other publishers rather than be saddled with a new face across the lunch table or a cold new voice on the telephone.

What is it, then, that an editor can do for an author? This year's crop of Booker midwives provides some remarkable examples.

Certainly the closest relationship in the whole half dozen is that between Penelope Lively (author of *Moon Tiger*) and her editor at André Deutsch, Anthony Thwaite. Unusually for an editor, he is also a writer and poet (though Peter Ackroyd - *Chatterton* - has in Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson at Hamish Hamilton a writer of non-fiction, whose *That Sweet Enemy* about France is currently enjoying considerable success).

The Thwaites and the Livelys are

On the eve of the Booker Prize awards, Pearson Phillips looks at the curious relationship between authors and their editors



From birth to Booker: Anthony Thwaite with author Penelope Lively (on the left) and Philippa Harrison with Nina Bayden

**'It is something I've waited for all my life'**

old friends. She left Heinemann to be edited by him. Their working relationship began in the late Seventies when he edited *Encounter* and persuaded her to submit short stories. He is also singular among publishing editors in that he is the past chairman of the Booker judges.

He not only helped with the birth of *Moon Tiger* but was also present at its conception. "It was three years ago," he explains. "I had won £1,000 for the Cholmondeley Poetry Award. I decided to spend it on something extravagant and chose a Nile cruise. My wife and I put the idea to the Livelys and they came along. We actually found the Cairo house where Penelope, the daughter of an Englishman working in a Cairo bank, had been brought up." Egyptian childhood memories feature largely in *Moon Tiger*.

The manuscript was on his desk when he joined Deutsch last year. "I knew at once it was a marvellous book, the strongest she had done." He had three pages of typed comments to send to her, but only one major suggestion. That concerned the way certain chapters were begun. "After thinking about it for a while she agreed with me."

Amanda Conroy, aged 30, handled Nigeria's Chinua Achebe (*Anchovy of the Savannah*), although she has never actually met him. "I much enjoyed dealing with him by the slightly old-fashioned means of correspondence. In some cases it is necessary to suggest quite major structural changes or draw attention to inappropriate characters. But with Achebe there were just some small stylistic queries."

She sees editing as a twofold task. First, getting books. That means keeping up with agents and reading manuscripts. Then befriending the author and representing his views on such questions as cover design and publicity. "I find," she says, "that if I like a book, I invariably like the author."

Philippa Harrison, now managing director and publisher at Macmillan, believes that editors spend too much time and energy on the acquiring function, and not enough on supporting their authors. She had the potentially difficult task of taking over Nina Bayden (*Circles of Deceit*) from her long-time editor George Hardinge, who retired.

"When I had studied the manuscript I went round to see her. I queried one small thing, but it helped to give her confidence in me

because it was a small detail which others had missed."

Tom Maschler, head of Jonathan Cape (Brian Moore's *The Colour of Blood*), says he has lost count of how many times one of his authors has been on a Booker shortlist. As Moore is a California resident, the basic editing of his book was carried out by the American publisher.

Maschler admits to being incapable of reading a manuscript without holding a pencil. "I am always alert for sentences which sound wrong, or for repetitions."

"You develop a technique for making suggestions in a sympathetic way which doesn't make an author clam up. You can put it in the form of a question, a request for help. I wonder if you could explain to me just why you made James leave his wife... I am not sure I understand his motivation..."

He sometimes has to help people through the various forms of writer's block. "Lack of confidence is the most frequent. They need to know that what they are doing is going to work out well. Sometimes, of course, you have to persuade them to put it aside because it isn't working."

How does the relationship look from the author's side? Most authors claim they are looking for a sympathetic friend who understands what they are trying to do. They do not want to be allotted to an editor for no other reason than there is a job to be done.

Penelope Lively recoils from the heavy-handed, literal-minded power struggle of many American editors. "I once wrote that the hallway of a house was illuminated by a dark, sub-aquatic light coming through the fanlight over the front door. I got a red pencil note on the text: 'Meaning of sub-aquatic is under water. Does author intend?'"

She says that having Thwaite to look after her at André Deutsch "is something I have waited for all my life. I am in safe hands with an exceptional critic and poet, a man whose literary judgement I respect. That doesn't mean that I would always accept his suggestions."

But there is more to it than just having a clever critic. "He knows what I am about. We have always shared an interest in the operation of the memory. He is sufficiently on my side to be able to show me areas of development and direction towards which I ought to go."

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## Waiting in the wings?

Is Peat Marwick McLintock trying to do a Saatchi in reverse? The accountant-cum-management consultancy looks almost as keen to break out of its traditional base in financial services as the brothers are to break in.

In recent months the media and entertainment division of Peat's management consultancy arm has adopted an increasingly high profile. David Murrell, the partner in charge, denies any ambition to invest directly in operating companies in the field: "We're not going to take 30 per cent of Virgin or 50 per cent of Rank," he says.

But Peat has been expanding in the wider business services field where Saatchi, too, is now active. Earlier this year it bought the world's largest information technology strategists, and Murrell says it has even crossed his mind that Peat could build on its in-house design and public relations teams.

If Peat did decide to enter Saatchi's strongholds in advertising and PR it would make a formidable competitor, with world-wide turnover of £1.8 billion and 55,000 employees.

## Setting the pace

The commodities page of tomorrow's *Financial Times* will be an historic artefact: the last page of any national newspaper to be typeset using the old hot metal process. The FT has made the change-over to photo-setting two months ahead of schedule. Other papers like the *Guardian*, *Mail* and *Express* have photo-setting but still employ compositors to do the work. "The real revolution is not whether type is cold or hot set, but who sets it," David Bell, managing editor of the FT, points out.

## Today's wait

Today's the day *Today* is 30, and celebrations are planned at Radio 4's morning programme. But not today. At the BBC, publicizing an anniversary is much more important than the anniversary itself, so history has been re-written and *Today* will be celebrating its birthday three weeks from now, because that is the first week the programme could secure the front cover of *Radio Times*. Clearly *Today*'s attitude to dates and times is as cavalier as that of its first presenter, the much-missed Jack de Manio.

## China station

Hurry, hurry! They don't come much cheaper than this. The *Sound of Music* makes its debut on Chinese television next month and advertisers are being offered airtime at a cost per million of around 0.00098 pence. The film is the first of 52 from Rupert Murdoch's 20th Century Fox library, which the

Chinese are broadcasting over the next year, and half of China's 600 million television viewers are expected to watch. Advertisers can buy 30-second spots for a mere \$5,000, but the Fox men suggest you forget the mass audience and treat it as an opportunity to make your company's name familiar to Chinese decision makers.

## Briefly...

A new media magazine enters an already crowded market sector next month with the launch of *Commercials*, edited by ex-Creative Review boss Brian Davies... After last week's announcement of staff cuts the BBC has been criticized by its own chief medical officer for putting its staff under unnecessary stress... Independent production companies' names are becoming as colourful as those of rock bands: the latest is Glasgow-based Big Star in a Wee Picture, currently working on a "revolutionary entertainment show" for Channel 4... ITV and the Labour Party have a lot in common, according to Greg Dyke, director of programmes for London Weekend: both are old-style working class institutions in need of a facelift... Celebrations among *Sunday Telegraph* staff, who have been told their circulation has overtaken *The Observer*...

... Moscow's Gostelradio wants to co-produce Russia's first television movie with the West: the Soviets are talking to Atlanta cable TV mogul Ted Turner about "an allegory about co-existence in the 21st century".

Nick Higham

## BBC APPOINTMENTS

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## BOXING

# Vaca's style should present Honeyghan with few problems

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Lloyd Honeyghan, Britain's World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation welterweight champion, should not be unduly troubled to equal Jim Watt's record of four successful world title defences when he meets Jorge Vaca, of Mexico, a replacement for Bobby Joe Young, of United States, at the Grand Hall, Wembley, tonight.

There is some doubt about Honeyghan's hands, which have been giving him trouble after his bout with Hatcher in Marbella in August. There has been talk that they may not have many more fights left in them.

Honeyghan's trainer Bobby Neill, believes that his charge is almost on the point of realising his full potential and banishes fears about his hands. While he was training in the Catskills, New York State, earlier this month Neill bought him special protective gloves that Mike Tyson uses and maintains they kept his hands in good shape. He has been knocked out inside eight rounds in all his five defeats in 48 contests.

At first sight Vaca's record looks impressive: 37 of his wins have ended within ten rounds, and one of his victims, Gerardo Derbes, never regained consciousness after

## Tale of the tape

Honeyghan	Vaca
Age	38
Weight	145lb
Height	5ft 9in
Reach	70in
Style	Boxer
Wins	37
Losses	5
Draws	1
Knockouts	14
Defences	4

Honeyghan: 37 wins, 0 defeats, 1 draw.  
Vaca: 37 wins, 5 defeats, 1 draw.

his third meeting with the Mexican champion, and died a few days later. This suggests that Vaca wastes little time in going for his man and does not mind trading blows. Which should suit Honeyghan down to the ground, where Vaca should find himself before too long.

The Mexican has never boxed before a non-Mexican crowd and has been twice knocked out in two rounds. Those defeats were at the hands of Herman Montez and Juan Elizondo, whom Sibson stopped in one round. Vaca avenged those defeats stopping Elizondo in seven and Montez in three rounds. The defeat by Montez is significant for he was no more than a lightweight.

His last defence of the

Mexican title was against Juan Villa, who was knocked out by Britain's Sylvester Mittee in two rounds three years ago. If Villa is still challenging for the Mexican title it does not exactly say very much for Mexican welterweights today.

Still, a Mexican can never be written off. Even if Vaca does not have the boxing and punching class of Pipino Cuevas or Carlos Palomino most Mexicans are capable of pulling out a winning punch until they are safely counted out. Also, Vaca could be hoping to put on a really good show for José Sulaiman, the Mexican president of the World Boxing Council, who is here for their annual convention. In Mexico, Vaca is considered to be the best local champion at all weights, though that, of course, excludes the two Mexican world champions.

While Vaca's best known opponents have been seniors - Cuevas, whom he despatched in two rounds, and Saul Mamby, the 40-year-old former world light-welterweight champion, whom he beat on points - two of Honeyghan's challengers were also long past their best: Bumphus and Hatcher, two light-welterweights. Besides, Hatcher had just been given a pasting by Frankie Warren, the light-welter.

It took a full welterweight, Maurice Blocker, of the United States, to make Honeyghan work for 12 rounds and many, including Terry Marsh, thought that the British boxer lost that bout. Vaca, though a full welterweight, is not as good a boxer as Blocker, or else Mickey Duff, who is Honeyghan's manager and the smartest matchmaker in the world, would not have brought him over at this crucial big money-making stage of Honeyghan's career.

Honeyghan has his eyes on multi-million dollar bouts with Mark Breland, the American Olympic champion, should he win back his World Boxing Association title from Marlon Starling, and Sugar Ray Leonard, should he want to make another comeback.

## Priority for Coddell is to stay in the ring

As the holder of a boxing promoter's licence, Pat Coddell is delighted to put it into storage for a while yet. The priority, now that the Midlands, aged 34, has regained his British super featherweight title is to carry on boxing.

A second defeat at the hands of the Manchester-based Najib Daho, who had knocked Coddell out in the first round in May last year, would have been the end of the line for the former Olympic bronze medal winner and world championship contender. But the ninth round stoppage of the Moroccan-born Daho means that Coddell, from Warley, is not finished yet. "I'm going to have a rest, then try to defend my title, which would

give me a Lonsdale belt outright, and then decide about my future," he said.

The first contest was a controversial affair on Daho's home territory, but at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre late on Monday night, Coddell had the crowd on his side. He had to withstand another ferocious opening from the champion but then took control, and with Daho, aged 28, bleeding heavily from the nose and taking a lot of punishment, the referee, Sid Nathan, stopped the contest with just over two rounds to go.

The title defence is likely to be against Bradford's John Doherty, but Coddell is not ruling out a third meeting with Daho.

## YACHTING

## Rescuers pick up Tabarly

By Barry Pickthall

Three days after the French yachtsman Daniel Gilard was lost from his 75ft catamaran Jet Services, the La Baule-Dakar multi-hull race came close to claiming two more lives when the trimaran Côte d'Or, sailed by Eric Tabarly and his brother Patrick, capsized on Monday.

The accident happened just before dawn as the 75ft multi-hull, which Tabarly was also forced to abandon in the same area during last year's Route du Rhum Transatlantic race, first broached then flipped over while running under spinnaker before 18-20 knot winds.

The two brothers were spotted clinging to the wreckage by Olivier Moussy, now placed third aboard the British-designed 60-foot trimaran, Laiterie Mount St Michael, who alerted the Portuguese Navy which diverted a patrol boat, the Zambeze, to pick them up. They were reported by the rescuers to be safe and sound.

Yesterday, Loïc and Bruno Peyron were vying for each other for the lead, 1,000 miles from the Senegal finish line, some 400 miles ahead of Moussy.

## Withdrawal may harm Scott's England future

By Nicholas Harling

Kenny Scott, Polycell Kingston's 6ft 9in power forward, may have jeopardised his future international career by crying off from this week's England trip to Greece two hours before the party were due to congregate at Heathrow.

It was just as David Timms, the England coach, was preparing to leave his Hemel Hempstead home that he took the call from Scott saying that he could not travel for tomorrow's game against the European champions in Salonika for "personal reasons".

The most exciting young player to be selected by England in recent seasons, Scott, aged 21, had proved himself an invaluable member of the team in his 11 internationals. He had cost a then record British transfer fee of £12,000 when he moved from Birmingham to Kingston before the start of season.

Kevin Cadie, the Kingston coach, says that he had no inkling of Scott's intentions when his club's squad travelled back from Sunday's Carlsberg League game at Sunderland, but Paul Simpson, Scott's England coach, who did warn John Lloyd, the chairman of the international committee, to expect a withdrawal.

"I had no sooner rung Timms to tell him that he took Scott's call," Lloyd said yesterday. "This is disgraceful. When Dave gets back the international committee will have to discuss what actions will be taken, but at this stage it's difficult to say what the repercussions will be."

Scott's personal reasons are believed to involve the return of his girlfriend, Erin, from America. "Apparently he felt he should be with her for the next couple of days but it is very upsetting to lose a player at such short notice for that sort of reason," Lloyd said. "I can't really believe he has thrown up a chance of facing the European champions at the semi-final stage."

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## Bitterness and internal rivalry blight Pakistan's defence of world team title



Price of success: Jansher now finds himself caught in the dynastic crossfire

## Favourable draw for England

The England squad were yesterday celebrating a quarter-final draw for the Royal Albert Hall this evening against the ICI Perspex World Team Squash Championships which gives them their best possible chance of success but which leaves almost no other group or person connected to the event (Colin McQuillan writes).

England will play a quarter-final at the Royal Albert Hall this evening against Canada, who many consider lucky to have qualified ahead of a surprisingly accomplished Finnish team from Pool B, and should progress to a semi-final on Friday evening against second-seeded New Zealand who tomorrow play a more problematical quarter-final against Egypt.

"You may not have noticed, but I had my hand in the bag as well," the England coach, Joannah Barrington joked after the draw was made by David York-Long, the championships adjudicator.

There was not much joking from the other half of the draw in which the top

seeds, Pakistan, are scheduled to meet Australia in a semi-final on Friday that most would have chosen as a classically balanced final for Saturday afternoon.

"The seedings are based on results from the last championship two years back," complained Ross Thorne, Australian player-manager, who also faces the toughest quarter-final challenge from Sweden on Thursday, while Pakistan play Singapore at the same stage.

"On current form we could have expected second seeding with Chris Dittmar, Rodney Martin, Chris Robertson and myself all in good form," Thorne said. New Zealand have Ross Norman in doubtful form. Stuart Davenport and relatively weak third string alternatives and Pakistan a remarkably strong squad of Jansher Khan, Jahangir Khan, Umar Hayat Khan and Qasim Zaman.

Small consolation: Pakistan v Singapore, Australia v Sweden, England v Canada, New Zealand v Egypt.

## Old blood stirred up as Jansher heralds new order

By Colin McQuillan

There is considerable discontent in the Pakistan squad at present defending the ICI World Team Squash Championships which move into the quarter-finals at the Royal Albert Hall today. It is not a mood likely to benefit the opposition. Rather it will promote an internal rivalry likely to overwhelm outsiders almost as a by-product.

Jansher Khan, who last week added the senior World Open title to the junior world championship he won in Brisbane 18 months ago, has been officially required to adopt premier listing above Jahangir Khan who ruled world squash for nearly six years and is still holding on by his fingernails to top spot on the world rankings of the International Squash Players Association (ISPA).

Since Jansher, aged 18, defeated Jahangir, now nearing the venerable age of 24, in each of their last three meetings (3-0 in the Hong Kong semi-finals, 3-2 in the Pakistan World Open semi-finals), his elevation to first string for Pakistan on the current form ruling of the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF) seems straightforward enough.

## Australians mounting strong challenge

Pakistan squash matters are rarely so simple, however. There is the matter of elder respect, upon which much of Islamic life depends.

There is the more pragmatic matter of maintaining a playing order best suited to retain the world team title under tremendous challenge from the dynamic young Australian squad. And, perhaps more important still, there is the matter of old blood between the squash dynasties of Peshawar.

Jahangir's pedigree is well-enough documented. He is, in equine parlance, out of Hashim and Azam by way of Roshan, with considerable input from Nasrullah and Rahmat.

A composite of everything best in the Peshawar warriors who took over the great British game, he was unapproachable until Ross Norman took over his world title in Toulouse last year. Since then he has lost once to Australia's Rodney Martin and three times to Jansher.

In the same 12 months Jansher has blown across the squash landscape like a fast-roving vine on the wings of a storm.

His defeat of Australia's Chris

Dittmar in the World Open final was a glorious finale to a run of successive major tournament wins. "I now No. 1," he insisted immediately.

Jansher is related to Jahangir only tenuously by the three-removed marriage links that connect all tribal hill societies in Pakistan.

## Claims inspiration from brother

He is the younger brother of Mohiuddin Khan, a great player now languishing in British prisons for drug trafficking offences he has constantly denied, from whom the new champion claims an inspiration noticeably similar to that provided for Jahangir at the turn of the 1980s by the death of his elder brother, Tarsan, from a heart attack on an Australian squash court.

But between Jansher and Mohiuddin is Aftab Khan, a third brother, who is said to have been the man who kept Jahangir out of the Pakistan team in 1979 because, at 15, the boy who went on to win the individual title from the qualifying rounds could not be allowed to displace older and more respected players.

Now it is Jahangir's demanding respect and, as he sees it, receiving satisfaction neither from the ISRF nor from Jansher.

"Last time the ISRF changed our order to suit ISPA rankings. This time they have changed it for what they say is current form," Jahangir stormed. "Next time perhaps they should come to Pakistan and choose our team for us."

## Jahangir infuriated by racket contact denial

Jahangir infuriated him by refusing to acknowledge a racket contact to Jahangir's chin at a vital point in the marvellously competitive World Open semi-final.

"It was a cheap victory. I will reverse things in the British Open next April," he said.

The response from Jansher on court was a new stare and a spray of perspiration from his fiercely-shaken head. Off the court his cry is equally frustrating to a once-involate champion.

"I now No. 1," is the simple irrefutable claim of the new world champion.

## BASKETBALL

## Withdrawal may harm Scott's England future

By Nicholas Harling

Kenny Scott, Polycell Kingston's 6ft 9in power forward, may have jeopardised his future international career by crying off from this week's England trip to Greece two hours before the party were due to congregate at Heathrow.

It was just as David Timms, the England coach, was preparing to leave his Hemel Hempstead home that he took the call from Scott saying that he could not travel for tomorrow's game against the European champions in Salonika for "personal reasons".

The most exciting young player to be selected by England in recent seasons, Scott, aged 21, had proved himself an invaluable member of the team in his 11 internationals. He had cost a then record British transfer fee of £12,000 when he moved from Birmingham to Kingston before the start of season.

Kevin Cadie, the Kingston coach, says that he had no inkling of Scott's intentions when his club's squad travelled back from Sunday's Carlsberg League game at Sunderland, but Paul Simpson, Scott's England coach, who did warn John Lloyd, the chairman of the international committee, to expect a withdrawal.

"I had no sooner rung Timms to tell him that he took Scott's call," Lloyd said yesterday. "This is disgraceful. When Dave gets back the international committee will have to discuss what actions will be taken, but at this stage it's difficult to say what the repercussions will be."

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The one other England player to drop out, Mike Spaid, of Portsmouth - who had injured a hand - had warned Timms in private that he was planning to drop out. "The foreign players aren't really that much better than us," he said. "I now have much more faith in myself."

## TENNIS: GOVERNING BODY ARE BLAMED AS SPONSORS SHOW THEIR DISSENT

## Grunfeld reacts with a win

Amanda Grunfeld, of Manchester, determined to prove herself after being overlooked for a place in the Maureen Connolly Trophy team last month, became the first British player to reach the third round of the Nabisco Grand Prix and run a tournament at Bramhall, with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Catrin Jexell, of Sweden.

The 20-year-old left-hander used her home courts at the Matchpoint Centre to her advantage. "I am playing better now than ever before," she said after the match. "Being left out of the Maureen Connolly Trophy team has acted as a spur for me to do better."

Grunfeld was referring to the British 21-and-under team which scored an historic 6-5 win over the United States last month.

Following a year in which she had used and relied on essentially the same arguments. His application was rejected for the same reasons.

Solicitors: Rust & Co, Birmingham; Mr Simon J. Foster, Birmingham; Mr R. H. Browne, Halesowen.

## Grand Prix reputation faces up to new breakaway threat

From Richard Evans, Hong Kong

After years of dissatisfaction at the way they have been treated by the game's governing body, the organizers of the Seiko Classic here in Hong Kong are threatening to pull out of the Nabisco Grand Prix and run a special event.

The failure of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council to come up with replacements for three adroit players - Jimmy Connors, Andres Gomez and Aaron Krickstein - only served to convince the tournament director, Ken Catton, that tossing the official line is a waste of time.

"We have been applying for an upgrade to super series status for years and have got nowhere," Catton said after bolstering his draw at the 11th hour with a personal phone call

to one of his former champions, Eliot Teltscher. "We have been 100 per cent loyal to the Grand Prix until now but they have not been loyal to us. There is plenty of money in this town, no matter what the stock market is doing, and we are now seriously considering running an event outside the Grand Prix format."

If Catton carries out his threat, the MPTC administrator, Marshall Happer, will be faced with two unpleasant truths. First, the MPTC have only themselves to blame if Hong Kong break away because they have constantly ignored the legitimate requests of an event that has both the stadium facilities and the organization to warrant Super Series status.

Second, there is a trend emerging here that, if it continues, could seriously undermine the Grand Prix's position as the only truly world circuit.

Antwerp, going it alone from the first, has established itself successfully outside the MPTC jurisdiction and the AT & T Challenge in Atlanta is now regarded as more than just another exhibition.

Add Hong Kong to the \$2-million event list and Tinnac is planning in Stuttgart next year - to be run in competition with the Benson and Hedges at Wimbledon - and seeds for a new maverick tour will have been sown.

The Grand Prix, which was Jack Kramer's brainchild back in 1970, is the best thing that has happened to a fragmented and crisis-ridden sport. But with Ivan Lendl asking for a reduced commitment next year and seeking other diversions, the MPTC must take heed of the danger.

Meanwhile, raids, which halted Jeremy Bates' first round match against Mark Kratzman, failed to arrive in time to rescue Andrew Castle who saved five match points before going down 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to the big West German teenager, Christian Saccani.

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## BOBSLEIGHING

## Tout and Phipps miss out

For the first time the British Championships get underway today without the leading lights, Nick Phipps, the reigning champion, who won both the two- and four-man titles last year, and Mark Tout, his chief rival, are sitting out this week's domestic competition on the artificially refrigerated West German track at Winterberg.

Both have already been selected for the British Olympic team, with the number three places for Calgary going to the winner of tomorrow's two-man race and Sunday's four-man competition.

Phipps, and his brakeman Alan Cairns, start their season in earnest next week at the opening of the Fosters World Cup Series on the new East German track at Altenberg.

They then return to Winterberg for the second round on November 13 before departing for a week's official training on the Olympic track in Calgary.

The remaining World Cup events are at Igls from December 2-4, Königssee (December 25) and Cervinia (January 14), with the European Championships at Sarajevo from January 23.

## Queen's Bench Division

## Burglary victim must replace meter

Regina v Midlands Electricity Board, Ex parte Busby  
Regina v Midlands Electricity Board, Ex parte Williamson  
Before Mr Justice Schiemann (Judgment October 26)

It was neither contrary to statute nor unreasonable for an electricity board to require a subscriber with a prepayment or token meter to pay for the cost of replacing the meter if it was stolen or damaged, to charge him for any money stolen and to cut off the supply of electricity if he did not pay.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing applications by Leslie John Busby and Arthur Williamson for judicial review of decisions of the Midlands Electricity Board.

Mr Ramby de Mello for the applicants; Mr David Eady, QC and Mr Manuel Barca for the board.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that Mr Busby had been a customer of the board since 1983. Initially he had a credit meter but was unable to pay his bills and rather than disconnect his electricity supply, as they were entitled to do, the board were prepared to continue the supply provided that the applicant had a coin prepayment meter, calibrated so that a

proportion of each coin inserted in the meter went to pay off the debt.

When the applicant moved house the board allowed him to receive electricity on the same terms, although they were entitled to refuse any supply until the old debt had been paid off.

In 1986 the applicant's home was burgled and money from the electricity meter was stolen. There was no reason to believe that the applicant was in any way to blame.

The board informed the applicant that by the terms of the agreement for the supply of electricity on a prepayment meter he was responsible for the money stolen and the cost of replacing the meter. If he was unable to pay immediately, he would be supplied electricity only on a token meter. If the applicant refused a token meter he would be disconnected.

The applicant claimed that the terms of the prepayment meter agreement were unenforceable because they were beyond the board's powers under the relevant statutes and were unreasonable on a *Wednesbury* principles (1948) 1 KB 223.

If the applicant were correct the result would be that when in future the board were faced with a customer who was unable to

meet his bill they would be more inclined to exercise their right to disconnect immediately, rather than grant a further extension of time, as the terms were intended to ensure that any further loss fell on the debtor alone.

However, there was nothing in the Electricity Acts 1947 and 1957, the Electricity Lighting (Supply) Act 1929 or the Electricity Lighting (Causes) Act 1899 to lead to the conclusion that Parliament had intended to prevent electricity boards entering agreements such as the one relied upon.

It could not be said that the board's action was unreasonable, as it was a commercial enterprise not a welfare agency. Whenever a debtor was granted an extension of time to pay or the debt written off the burden fell on other customers. The board had done their best for the applicant in allowing him to have the prepayment meter. It was not unreasonable that people with those meters should be responsible for them.

There was nothing to suggest that the applicant had been treated any differently from other subscribers using prepayment meters. All the board had done was say that if the applicant wanted more time to pay he had to have a token meter and they were entitled to do so without further discussion.

## Law Report October 28 1987

## New maxima for commercial matters

Practice Direction (Limitation of Time for Interlocutory Hearings)

New maximum time estimates for interlocutory hearings were announced in a practice direction delivered by Mr Justice Hirst in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on October 23.

## Counsel's brief duty

Regina v Francis

In considering whether to use their undoubted right to make a second speech and sum up the prosecution evidence to the jury where a defendant who was represented by counsel gave no evidence and called none, prosecuting counsel should always remind themselves of the observations of Mr Justice Watkins, as he then was, in *R v Bryant and Ostry* (1978) 67 Cr App R 157, (163) that it was a right which it should only be rarely necessary to use, save possibly in long and complex cases, and whenever used should bear "the becoming hallmark of brevity".

Mr Justice Ognall, sitting with Lord Justice Groom, Johnson and Mr Justice Staughton, so stated on October 26 when the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Glenn Francis against

his conviction on January 20, 1987 at Halesworth Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder Lawrence, QC and a jury) of theft, for which he was sentenced to three months imprisonment, suspended for one year.

His LORDSHIP said that the right of prosecuting counsel should only be exercised where the issues really justified it. In this case although the trial was very short in duration there were features justifying counsel's decision to address the jury a second time.

## Law Society exams

The Law Society examination results will be published in *The Times* on October 30. Copies of that issue will be on sale at 200 Gray's Inn Road from 9.30pm on Thursday, October 29.

HIS LORDSHIP said the Commercial Court judges had decided to prescribe stricter control of time limits for a trial period encompassing the legal year 1987 to 1988. The practice would be reviewed in the summer of 1988.

The efficient working of the system depended on accurate estimates of the time needed for a summons. Counsel and solicitors had to take special care in that respect. In future any summons which overran its estimate would probably be adjourned.

Subject only to the exception specified below, the Clerk to the Commercial Court would not accept estimates exceeding the following:

- 1 Summons to set aside service etc - 4 hours
- 2 Order XIV - 4 hours
- 3 Set aside judgment in default - 2 hours
- 4 Set aside or vary injunction - 2 hours
- 5 Amendment of pleadings - 1 hour
- 6 Further discovery (including interrogatories) - 1 hour
- 7 Further and better particulars - 1/2 hour
- 8 Security for costs - 1/2 hour

Those were maxima, not guidelines. Proper estimates in each category would often be



RACING: JOCKEYS' CHAMPIONSHIP COULD BE RESOLVED AT EDINBURGH WHERE AMERICAN RIDER HAS FINE PROSPECTS FOR A TREBLE

# Pipicante to lead Cauthen charge Promising Shehiyr steals thunder from Cecil's colt

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With only 10 days of the Flat season remaining, the great private race for the jockeys' championship between Steve Cauthen and Pat Eddery could easily be won and lost today at Edinburgh where I expect Cauthen to ride three winners.

The crunch may well come early on, in the Alma Graduation Stakes, in which both have fancied rides.

While Eddery certainly has a good chance on that ultra-consistent filly Pickled, who finished third to Working Model at Newbury last Thursday, I still prefer the lightly raced Pipicante, who, with only two races behind him, should be the freshest at this stage of the season that counts for a lot.

Last time out, Pipicante finished third behind the useful Sher Shah at Leicester. That was a big step up on his first race at Haydock. If he can maintain that improvement

he should be too good for Pickled.

Later in the day I envisage Cauthen also winning the Cutty Sark Nursery and the Ram Losa Handicap on Rambling River.

Bellefire (3.45) is another who is fresh. A winner over five furlongs at Beverley in July, she was clearly up against something a bit smart at Newcastle next time out when she took on Au Courant.

Now the word from Mahton, where she is trained by Jimmy Fitzgerald, is that she is in the right sort of form to pick up the winning thread.

Rambling River (4.15) is something of a standing dish on the Scottish track where he has won five times.

He has, in fact, won the Connaught race for the past two seasons and I believe he will be very hard to beat again, especially with a low draw.

Visitors to Ascot this afternoon will also see a couple of

chaser Panto Prince (2.35).

When Acarine won his race last year he gave 3lb and a comfortable beating to Castle Warden. Interestingly, the same horse was again well behind him on the same terms at Kempton recently.

Now I can see no reason why Acarine should not beat Castle Warden again and he is my nap.

When Panto Prince beat Clay Hill on his seasonal debut at Kempton he looked as though he would improve the most. That opinion will be put to the test this afternoon when he meets the same rival on 4lb worse terms.

The form of their race was made to look even better at Newbury last Friday when the third horse, Brave Hussar, beat Malva Mal and Voice Of Progress.

Jimmy Fitzgerald has engaged Richard Dwyer to partner Yank Brown in the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers qualifier as

Mark Dwyer, his stable's first jockey, will be at Newcastle, principally to partner Tickie Boo in the BMW Series Qualifier.

But for a bit of bad luck at Cheltenham and Ascot last season, this nice young horse might well have been unbeaten over fences.

He ended last season by winning the Power Gold Cup at Fairyhouse and I believe that he has the class to resume where he left off, on a winning note.

Winning the Ekbalco Hurdle with Ballyduff, he gave Roger Fisher untold pleasure because he trained that high class but ill-fated hurdler after whom today's race is named.

Finally, not even the great course specialist Peaty Sandy should be up to beating the in-form Durham Edition in the John Eustace Smith Trophy.

Shahyir is a good horse, we'd probably finish second.

Moscow Society started favourite at 5-2 on to repeat the previous wins of Alleging, Slip Anchor and Legal Bid in the Moscow Society's always informative trial.

But Billy Newnes was always sitting confidently on Shahyir after taking up the running early in the straight and the pair drew clear to win by three lengths.

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Blinkered first time

Edinburgh: 1.45 Bombardier, Trevelyan: 3.45 Rapid Chimes.

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By Michael Seely

Shahyir was quoted at 25-1 to give the Aga Khan his third Derby success in eight years after beating Moscow Society in the Wharton Manor Stud Stakes at Nottingham yesterday.

"I've always thought he was a nice sort of colt," said Fulke Johnson Houghton, the winning trainer. "But he's a bit backward and I thought that if Henry Cecil's was a good horse, we'd probably finish second."

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Place still has three of the top four favourites for the 2,000 Guineas.

And Carmelite House and Sanquhar are joint favourites at 16-1 with Emmons and Talos for the Derby.

Cauthen had a disappointing afternoon with all seven mounts beaten. But Newnes went on to complete a double of nearly 90's when bringing Optimism Flamed home well clear of his rivals to win the concluding Lester Piggott Final Handicap for Linda Ramsden, the Thurst trainer.

Dragons Wrath, Cecil's only other runner, started favourite at 3-1 for the East Midlands Nursery but finished unplaced behind Pipicante, who Richard Potts rode to a second year.

Lord John Fitzgerald, "I'm only 152 behind Steve Cauthen," said the red-headed jockey cheerfully as he brought the blinkered filly into the unsaddling enclosure.

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ASCOT	
Selections	
By Mandarin	
1.30 Fair Park.	3.10 Eastshaw.
2.55 ACARINE (nap).	3.40 Yank Brown.
2.30 Panto Prince.	4.10 First Romance.

Michael Seely's selection: 4.10 MR GREGORY (nap).

Going: good

1.30 BINFELD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,376: 2m) (18 runners)

101	2221 COMMERCE 11 (D.J. Joseph) R From 11-5	J Frost
102	2210 FOREIGN KNIGHT 21 (D.F. J. Williams) R Jukes 11-5	J Frost
103	P ALEXA'S BOY 7 (T. Halliday) Hallett 11-1	D Morris (4)
104	ALABAMA 11 (R. G. Moore) 11-0	T Wall
105	ALABAMA 11 (R. G. Moore) 11-0	T Wall
106	ALABAMA 11 (R. G. Moore) 11-0	T Wall
107	ALABAMA 11 (R. G. Moore) 11-0	T Wall
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1.30



# Davies set for his belated debut

**5** Bob Hewitt shared in five victories in the men's doubles championship at Wimbledon. Name his two partners.

**SPORT ON TV**

**ADMISSION:** British Airways members: Extended highlights of the recent burnout at the Albert Hall. CA: 2:15-4:30.

**WEEKEND SPORTS SPECIAL:** Football: Highlights from the Littlewoods Cup; Third and Reeling: Report from the WBC convention at London's Currier; Golf: Coverage of the British Open. CA: 8:00-11:00.

**WING:** 2:35, 3:10 and 3:40 races track. BSBC: 2:20 p.m.

**CRICKETING:** Pooling: World water polo championship; Lloyd Honeyghan: 3:30 p.m.; World Cup: live coverage on Wednesday; Rugby: Live British to nine-a-side tournament from Wales. Special interview with Pat Cash. Football: 3:30 p.m.







